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A Big Russian Turnout To Deliver a Message Communists and Nationalists Lead In Early Results From the Far East

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MOSCOW — Preliminary results from Russia's Far East put the Communist Party ahead with 20.5 percent of the vote and the extreme nationalist Liberal Democratic Party second with 16.2 percent in parliamentary elections on Sunday.

The results, for 1 percent of the Russian electorate, were given by the Central Election Commission.

The liberal Yabloko bloc ran third with 7 percent; the centrist Women of Russia had 6 percent, and the government party, Our Home Is Russia, 5.7 percent.

Russian television channels said that although preliminary polls indicated that the Communists were leading, pro-reform parties had a generous share of the vote. Final results were not expected until Monday at the earliest.

As the last polls closed, the election commission estimated that more than 60 percent of the electorate cast ballots, well above expectations. A higher turnout was expected to boost the chances of pro-reform parties.

Communists and nationalists who want to turn back President Boris N. Yeltsin's free-market reforms were expected to score big in the race for the State Duma, the lower house. They were riding a wave of anger and despair in a country where life remains bleak and people can now complain about it.

Russia's Choice, one of the pro-reform groups, said its polls indicated centrist and moderate parties taking up to half the vote in many areas.

The Far East, where some areas are 10 time zones ahead of Moscow, was the first to vote in the elections to the State Duma. A final figure on the turnout was not

immediately known, but the 25 percent minimum to make the elections valid was easily reached. The election commission chief, Nikolai Ryabov, said the figures were from 220 polling stations out of a total of 3,000 in the Far East. He said the picture could change considerably as votes were still being counted.

The poll pitted divided liberal forces and the government party against the Communists, who want to reverse reforms party and recreate, voluntarily, the Soviet Union.

Nationalist groups were also expected to capitalize on discontent with poverty and crime and a widespread nostalgia for Russia's great-power past.

In the last parliamentary election in 1993, Vladimir Zhirinovsky's Liberal Democratic Party finished first in all 12 Far Eastern regions. It was not immediately clear whether the Communists had won in each of the 12 regions, but the figures given so far represented a considerable swing to them.

But the high turnout also could mean that undecided and apathetic voters were galvanized to react in an effort to stave off the anticipated Communist comeback.

Mr. Yeltsin, voting in a sanatorium outside Moscow, said market reforms would stay on course regardless of who won election to the State Duma. Asked if a Communist comeback was possible, Mr. Yeltsin growled, "No, and no again."

But on Russia's volatile southern rim, there was little thought of voting. Russian troops in rebel Chechnya clashed with separatists in a fourth day of fighting in which dozens have been killed. Rebel



Locked French/Associated Press

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An elderly Russian woman folding her parliamentary ballot in a Moscow voting booth Sunday as Lenin looks on.

Winners (Rail Unions) and Losers (Juppé) in French Strike

By Joseph Fitchett
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — As transport and other public services resumed around France and the government prepared for fresh labor talks, the crippling strike seemed to have some clear initial results: a victory for unionized railroad workers and a loss of credibility for Prime Minister Alain Juppé.

More broadly, the immediate impact has been lost business growth and a blow to confidence that is likely to slow consumer spending and discourage foreign investors. Such economic aftershocks would reduce the government's room to maneuver as it seeks new compromises to cut budget

deficits and keep France on target to join Europe's planned single currency.

Earlier, the government had refused union demands to widen the agenda for talks Thursday with labor leaders to include

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clude the disputed plan for overhauling the nation's social security system.

But on Sunday, Mr. Juppé, sounding subdued and even chastened in a television interview, said that he was open to negotiations on how to make his proposed changes in health care and retirement benefits, and he said that he was resigned to letting workers in the state-owned railroads

keep advantageous pension arrangements.

With Mr. Juppé backing away from his plan to reorganize the state rail system, train service slowly returned in Paris and the rest of France. (Page 5)

Even though he can claim to have salvaged welfare change by acceding to the rail unions, Mr. Juppé has acquired an image of obstinacy, and even some of his political allies suggest that he could have headed off disaster by making the concessions earlier — or, better still, not overloading the political situation by tackling the railroads and welfare simultaneously.

Now Mr. Juppé will have to contend with a railroad union elated by its biggest victory in years. While the government has

a large parliamentary majority, the scope of the upheaval has changed the context of debate about economic changes.

Although the stoppages were confined to public sector companies, many private sector employees struck by proxy in voicing support or marching.

Indeed, the public's attitude is the major long-term question that has emerged from France's nearly monthlong social convulsion. Will the strikes usher in more conciliatory approaches and improve the way changes are managed? Or has the conflict polarized the country and its elites in a way that will cripple future initiatives?

The strikers claim to speak for French people frustrated by arrogant management

in business and in politics, with leaders setting policies with little consultation and then expecting compliance. That method of operation, although Mr. Juppé denies it, fits his style.

The outpouring of resentment may foster new cohesiveness, optimists say, citing how the French who stayed on the job cooperated to overcome the hardships brought on by the strike. Even the tolerance for the strikers' punishing tactics suggested an uncharacteristic sense in France of being in the same boat.

This approach is echoed by Nicole Notat, head of the Democratic Confederation

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Austria Votes To Spurn a Sharp Turn To the Right

Social Democrats Win As Nation Rejects Call To Curb Immigration

By Stephen Kinzer
New York Times Service

VIENNA — In voting for a new Parliament, Austrians refused to take the sharp right turn on Sunday that the anti-immigration leader Jörg Haider had urged upon them. Mr. Haider finished with 22.3 percent of the votes, slightly less than he won in the last parliamentary election 14 months ago.

Chancellor Franz Vranitzky's center-left Social Democratic Party finished a strong first, meaning that Mr. Vranitzky, who has led Austria for nearly a decade, will almost certainly remain in office. With nearly all the votes counted, the Social Democrats had 38.2 percent of the vote, up 3.3 percent from last year's result.

Mr. Vranitzky's campaign started slowly, but he appealed to pick up support in the closing days. The slogan on his posters was, "Our Austria Is Too Precious For Experiments," and many voters apparently decided that keeping him in office would preserve a measure of stability as the country adjusts to an era of austerity.

"Economic and budget issues dominated the beginning of the campaign, but in the last couple of weeks those issues were overtaken by the question of whether country wanted a radical change in direction," Wolfgang Bachmayer, a leading public-opinion researcher, said on the national ORF television network.

"Recent events in France led many voters to fear that a political change would lead to serious upheaval," he said. "They didn't want that here."

Mr. Haider's showing was a serious blow to his ambition to win the chancellor's job by 1998, and suggested that support for his Freedom Party, which had been rising steadily for nearly a decade, has reached a peak.

Mr. Haider, whose father was a member of the Nazi party, may have been hurt by this weekend's discovery of a videotape made in October that showed him addressing a meeting of veterans of the Nazi SS. Among the guests was Gudrun Burwitz, daughter of Heinrich Himmler, who was one of Hitler's most senior associates.

In the tape, which was broadcast on German television and widely reported in Austrian newspapers, Mr. Haider calls the veterans "dear friends" and praises them as "upstanding citizens who still have

See AUSTRIA, Page 4

'A New Game,' But Assad Still Holds the Cards

By Serge Schmemann
New York Times Service

JERUSALEM — While the Israelis and Americans were clearly jubilant over their success in getting Syria back to a negotiating table, the basic question remained the same: Was President Hafez Assad really ready to deal?

In the Israeli-American view, he had to be. His former Soviet backers were gone,

and Israel had made peace with the Egyptians, Jordanians and Palestinians, and the Israeli had a new leader who was proclaiming his longing for the peace from every podium and hinting that it could well include the Golan Heights and an endorsement of Syria's hegemony in Lebanon.

But Mr. Assad recently celebrated 25 years in power, and all of them have been in a state of active or dormant conflict with Israel. He had rebuffed many an invitation to the peace table before — twice in the past year alone.

Though Israeli newspapers all greeted the announcement Saturday by Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher that new talks between Jerusalem and Damascus would start Dec. 27, one Israeli commentator

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said that the two brothers, children of a Serb-Croat mixed marriage, ended up fighting on opposing sides in the same battle here. On Aug. 15, 1991, Drago Vuckovic was manning a sniper's nest overlooking the killing ground when Croatian gunfire cut his brother down.

"I thought, 'Let the bastard die,'" Mr. Vuckovic recalled. "He had abandoned Croatia. He was fighting for the Serbs. I just walked away."

Four years later, Mr. Vuckovic does not feel that way anymore. At 38, broken by years of fighting Serbs and Muslims in Croatia and Bosnia, the former commander of a company of Croatian army troops cannot stop the trembling in his fingertips and the visions of

Pope May Visit Holy Land Soon

JERUSALEM (AFP) — Pope John Paul II is considering making his first visit to Israel soon, the Vatican foreign minister said here Sunday.

"I believe that the date for this pilgrimage to the holy sites is near," Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran told journalists on the first day of a four-day visit.

Archbishop Tauran, the highest level

Vatican official to visit Israel since the Holy See established relations with the Jewish state in June 1994, met earlier Sunday with Israel's two chief rabbis, Meyer Lau and Elyahu Bakshi Doron.

The archbishop also met Sunday with the mayor of Jerusalem, Ehud Olmert, who issued an invitation to the Pope to visit the city.

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By Michael Richardson
International Herald Tribune

SINGAPORE — The security agreement between Indonesia and Australia will sign on Monday reflects increasing concern among Asian and Pacific countries about new challenges to regional stability from China and other sources.

Officials said Sunday that although the accord between the two neighbors was not a formal defense alliance, its terms for developing closer military ties between them and providing mutual support in the event of an external challenge were similar to those in existing security agreements between Australia and Papua New Guinea, and among Australia, New Zealand, Britain, Singapore and Malaysia through the Five Power Defense arrangements.

"This is part of a process of putting together a series of building blocks in the common security interests of the region as a whole," said Gareth Evans, the Australian foreign minister, who will sign the agreement with Ali Alatas, his Indonesian counterpart.

It is the first time that Indonesia — a founding member of the Nonaligned Movement and the fourth largest country in the world — has entered into a formal security arrangement with another country.

The agreement, which Paul Keating, Australia's prime minister, said had

"treary status," has been drafted in the most inoffensive language possible to avoid charges that it is part of an attempt inspired by the United States, to contain China or any country, officials said.

Australia and the United States are allies under the ANZUS mutual defense pact.

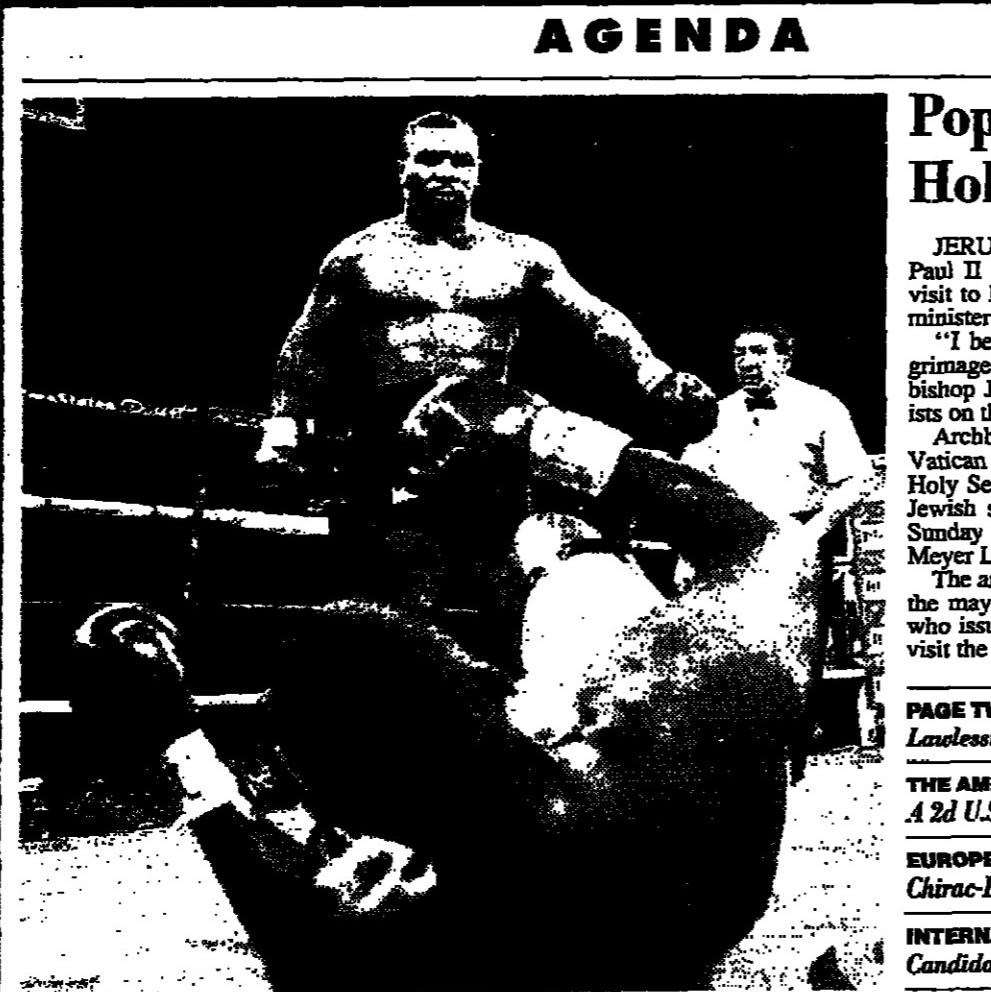
Nonetheless, analysts said that the agreement between Indonesia and Australia reflected a growing determination by countries in Southeast Asia and the Southwest Pacific to maintain stability in the region and lay the basis for a strategic counterweight to any attempt by China or any other outside power to interfere in regional affairs.

Juwono Sudarsono, deputy head of a training institute for the Indonesian armed forces, said the agreement could serve as a "deterrent" to possible use of force, or the threat of force, by China in the region.

Mr. Alatas said that despite differences over some issues, like the situation in East Timor, Indonesia and Australia had "common perceptions of what can constitute a possible threat to the whole region."

He said that such a situation could arise if "the equilibrium of forces among the major powers" was upset, the China-Taiwan dispute or tension on the Korean Peninsula flared up, or there was "an uncontrolled escalation in the South China Sea" as a result of the dispute between China, Tai-

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By John Pomfret
Washington Post Service

VUKOVAR, Croatia — On a weedy plot of land along a riverbank in this once proud outpost of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Drago Vuckovic fought for his homeland and watched his brother die on the wrong side of the line.

As war in the former Yugoslavia erupted in 1991, Mr. Vuckovic joined the militia forces of Croatia, a part of Yugoslavia that had just declared independence. His 32-year-old sibling, Pajo, remained in the federal army of Yugoslavia, which was dominated by officers and troops from the neighboring region, Ser-

bia. So the two brothers, children of a Serb-Croat mixed marriage, ended up fighting on opposing sides in the same battle here. On Aug. 15, 1991, Drago Vuckovic was manning a sniper's nest overlooking the killing ground when Croatian gunfire cut his brother down.

"I thought, 'Let the bastard die,'" Mr. Vuckovic recalled. "He had abandoned Croatia. He was fighting for the Serbs. I just walked away."

Four years later, Mr. Vuckovic does not feel that way anymore. At 38, broken by years of fighting Serbs and Muslims in Croatia and Bosnia, the former commander of a company of Croatian army troops cannot stop the trembling in his fingertips and the visions of

slaughter that haunt his sleep. His Serb mother died last year in Vukovar, and continued Serb occupation of his hometown prevented him from laying her to rest. His Croat father has disappeared. His friends are either dead or emigrated.

"These days I ask myself, 'Was it really worth it?'" Mr. Vuckovic said.

His question is being repeated all over the charred remains of the former Yugoslavia these days. From the Bosnian Serb mountain stronghold of Pale, to the streets of the woebegone Serbian capital, Belgrade, through the gritty alleys of Sarajevo and down the smartly renovated main boulevard of the Croatian capital, Zagreb, people are awakening from a night-

mare that tore their country apart. While giving independence to some, the bloodshed has bequeathed to a skilled, well-educated people who once enjoyed the trappings of European prosperity a paltry inheritance of poverty, homelessness and hate. Now they wonder what they have wrought — and whether they can return to a stable peace with the help of U.S. and NATO troops.

A simple question haunts the peace agreement, one that assumes new urgency as U.S. soldiers pour into Bosnia: Are the people of this cultural crossroads where East meets West burdened with a historical

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West Moves Into the Wreckage of Tito's 'Brotherhood and Unity'

Monte Carlo Prices

Andorra	10.00 FF	Luxembourg	.65 L. Fr
Angola	12.50 FF	Morocco	14.00
Cameroun	1,600 CFA	Cuba	1,000 Reals
Egypt	5.00 FF	CE 5. Réunion	12.50 FF
France	10.00 FF	Saudi Arabia	10.50 FF
Gabon	1,100 CFA	Senegal	1,100 CFA
Greece	2,800 Dr.	Spain	225 PTAS
Iraq	2,800 Lira	Tunisia	1,250 Dinar
Italy	1,250 L.D.	Turkey	10,000 D.
Jersey			

PA
Law of the Jungle / Women Are Often Molested

On Japan's Subway, the Commuter's Daily Nightmare

By Sheryl WuDunn
New York Times Service

KAWASAKI, Japan — Every morning, millions of Japanese brace for the ugly commuting hurly-burly: the train ride.

For Samu Yamamoto, the sights and smells of the rude and uncouth rush-hour crowd conjure up sensations that propel him into spells of debauchery. Mr. Yamamoto, 42, is something of a professional molester, and for him the subways are a feast of touchables.

"When men and women are packed together, squeezed onto a train, I think everybody has some kind of desire to touch someone else's body," said Mr. Yamamoto.

It is the same throughout the Tokyo

region, in the sprawling web of underground subways, where push turns to shove as nearly 15 million passengers shuffle through each day.

"If someone were molesting on a train elsewhere in the world, they'd be accused of sexual harassment," he said. "It's unique to Japan that people put up with this."

Japan is probably the most polite society in the world, a place where people bow and greet each other with apologies.

But the law of the jungle is the only one that prevails in the trains from places like Kawasaki, a bedroom community east of Tokyo, where sleepy commuters wriggle their way through the crowds each morning on the train platform.

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region, in the sprawling web of underground subways, where push turns to shove as nearly 15 million passengers shuffle through each day.

And during the busy moments of pedestrian traffic, molesters, drunkards and pickpockets, as well as pushers and shavers, often ruin a commuter's ride.

It is common for Japanese women to say they have been groped at least once on the trains.

Yuri Kaga, a 27-year-old office worker, vividly remembers that as she got off a subway one day, someone slipped his hand under her T-shirt and unhooked her bra. "It was so sudden I didn't know what happened," Miss Kaga said. Then another time, a man sexually rubbed against her

clothes and body, horrifying her so much that before going to work that morning she went and bought new clothes and threw away her soiled ones.

Miyuki Omori, another 27-year-old office worker, said she once saw a man yanking at the undergarments of a female train rider. "The train was so crowded she couldn't get away from him," Miss Omori said. "At the next station she stepped out to change cars, but he followed her."

For many Japanese women, such transgressions are tolerated with disgust mainly because they feel they have no redress. Some women say that policemen ignore the problem, even when plainclothes officers — on duty to scout for pickpockets — see a molester in action.

"The police are very uncooperative," said Kazue Akiha, an outspoken female lawyer. "Because it happens so often, the women just give up. Society thinks it isn't a big problem, so women are forced to think so as well. It's not only the criminals I'm furious at. Sometimes I want to kill the policemen as well."

These days, most passengers do their own pushing, with some even trying to maintain a modicum of manners.

As the car doors were about to close recently at a Kawasaki station, a young Japanese woman rushed to the platform, bowed deeply in courtesy to the crowded tangle of people inside, and then charged out.

Some people just thrust themselves in. Some slip in on the side. Japanese trains are usually on schedule and so those who time their commutes down to the minute often prefer the last-in, first-out method, which means they must maneuver in just as the doors are closing.

Others who are determined to reach on the train favor the door spots for the space to pull out a book or magazine. But as the weather turns cold and people put on bulky overcoats, the race for space becomes vicious.

"There are so many people that I'm just so tired by the time I get home," said Kazumi Kobayashi, 24, an office worker. "I just want to take a bath and wash off my exhaustion."

As for Mr. Yamamoto, the molester, he is unabashed and wrote a book about his experiences, including the time he groped a woman who then became his wife.

But strong protests from numerous women's groups forced his book off the market, and now he says he restrains himself on the subways.



Commuters pushing their way onto a subway car in Tokyo. Many women are victimized by molesters on the trains.

ing traffic, passengers spilled out and a thin woman collapsed in a faint.

"On a bad day, we could have three to four people falling sick," said Takeo Aoki, a deputy stationmaster on the Odakyu line. "Many of them are women who are sickly, who skip their breakfast or are on a diet, and they're not able to cope with the rough crowds in the train."

During rush hours, train attendants with white gloves come out in full force, some hired specially as "shiri oshi," or "pushy pushers," who stand in front of the doors to help pack passengers onto the train.

"It's not a very good feeling to be pushing passengers, for it's kind of troubling them," said Masami Tsukada, another deputy stationmaster on the Odakyu line. "People are on the train for extended periods of time, and they get frustrated and irritated, which leads to bad manners."

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U.S. Writer And Aide Wounded in Chechnya

New York Times Service

MOSCOW — An American journalist and his Georgian assistant were wounded Saturday during fighting in the Russian republic of Chechnya.

The journalist, Steve LeVine, a freelance writer who reports for The New York Times and Newsweek magazine, and his assistant, Nana Kiknadze, received leg injuries when a rocket-propelled grenade exploded near their hotel in a Chechen town, Urit-Martan.

Mr. LeVine suffered shrapnel wounds and a broken leg, according to witnesses reporting from Grozny, the Chechen capital. Ms. Kiknadze's injuries were described as not serious. They were taken to the main functioning hospital in Grozny, where they were to be treated until they could be taken to Moscow.

Of the thousands of people killed since Russia attacked the rebellious southern republic a year ago, at least a dozen have been journalists, both foreign and Russian. Many more have been hurt.

■ Sharp Battle for Town

The battle for Chechnya's second-largest town, Gudermes, continued for a fourth day Sunday, with rebel forces firing on Russian forces throughout the night in several places in the city. The Associated Press reported from Grozny.

However, no losses were reported among Russian troops in the city, the Interfax news agency said. Three soldiers were killed Saturday, officials said.

The fighting in Gudermes, 30 kilometers (19 miles) east of Grozny, began Thursday when rebels seized a local hospital.

Washington Second Clinton and Al Impasse

By David E. Sanger

WASHINGTON — The president and his administration are continuing to press their case for a peace deal in Chechnya, despite the setbacks of the past week.

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TRAVEL UPDATE

French Transport Starts Rolling

PARIS (AP) — About half of scheduled French trains will run Monday as railroad workers return to their jobs after a strike that has paralyzed France for more than three weeks, the SNCF rail authority said Sunday.

In the Paris region, trains, buses and the Métro will be free Monday, the RATP Paris mass-transit authority said. On the Métro system on Sunday, partial service had been restored on 11 of the total 15 lines, and about 20 percent of buses were running in the capital.

On average, from 50 to 60 percent of SNCF trains ran Sunday on regional and express intercity services, after most of the services' 180,000 workers voted Friday to end the strike.

Police and hospital officials in the New South Wales town of Milton refused to confirm that Mr. Rushdie had been injured, referring calls to the Sydney police department.

The Sydney police would only say that all three people injured in the accident Saturday evening were from London — Mr. Rushdie's home town — and that they were a 48-year-old man, a 30-year-old woman and a 16-year-old boy. Mr. Rushdie is 48.

All three had been treated and released from the Milton hospital, the police said.

The police said that the 48-year-old man suffered an injury to his right arm, and that all three victims suffered cuts and scratches.

They said the car crossed over the highway, hit an oncoming truck, bounced off its trailer and then hit a tree.

Mr. Rushdie has been touring New Zealand and Australia promoting his latest book, "The Moor's Last Sigh."

His representatives could not be reached for comment.

His whereabouts and movements are closely guarded because for six years he has been under a *fatwa*, or religious edict, calling for his death for allegedly blaspheming Islam in his book "The Satanic Verses."

The *fatwa*, issued by a former Iranian leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, has not been rescinded.

But Mr. Rushdie has been traveling and making more public appearances on promotional tours in recent years.

Record Rainfall in Gulf Emirates

DUBAI (AP) — Record rainfall in Dubai and the surrounding

desert emirates has flooded roads, closed schools and forced hundreds of people to be evacuated, authorities said Sunday. The United Arab Emirates have been the hardest hit. More than 100 millimeters (four inches) of rain has been recorded in Dubai in December.

This Week's Holidays

Banking and government offices will be closed or services curtailed in the following countries and their dependencies this week because of national and religious holidays:

MONDAY: Israel, Niger.

TUESDAY: Indonesia.

THURSDAY: Malawi, Sri Lanka.

FRIDAY: Guatemala.

SATURDAY: Japan.

Sources: J.P. Morgan, Reuters.

By Peter Thomas

PARIS (AP) —

WASHINGTON — The number of Americans traveling abroad increased again last year for the fourth consecutive year, with fewer young people ever afraid about the dangers of terrorism, according to a survey.

More secondary school students are using marijuana, hallucinogens, stimulants, stimulants and alcohol, doubling in seven categories since the start of the decade, according to a survey by the University of Michigan.

Several other recent reports similarly concluded that use among teenagers, steadily increasing in the 1990s, peaked in 1993. The Michigan survey, following a decline in the 1990s, showed an already high level of use among teenagers.

Teenage 1

California Girl, 7, Has Face World With

Seven-year-old Chelsea Lee, California, got an ear piercing last week

Second Shutdown

Clinton and Republicans At Impasse Over Budget

By David E. Rosenbaum
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — With parts of the government closed because of the budget impasse and thousands of workers threatened with furloughs on Monday, President Bill Clinton and Republican leaders in Congress spent the weekend blaming each other for the deadlock, but made no noticeable progress toward resolving their differences.

In a radio address on Saturday, the president accused the Republican Congress of forcing government installations to close "in an effort to force through their unacceptable cuts in health care, education and the environment."

"It's irresponsible," Mr. Clinton said. "I won't give in to the threat."

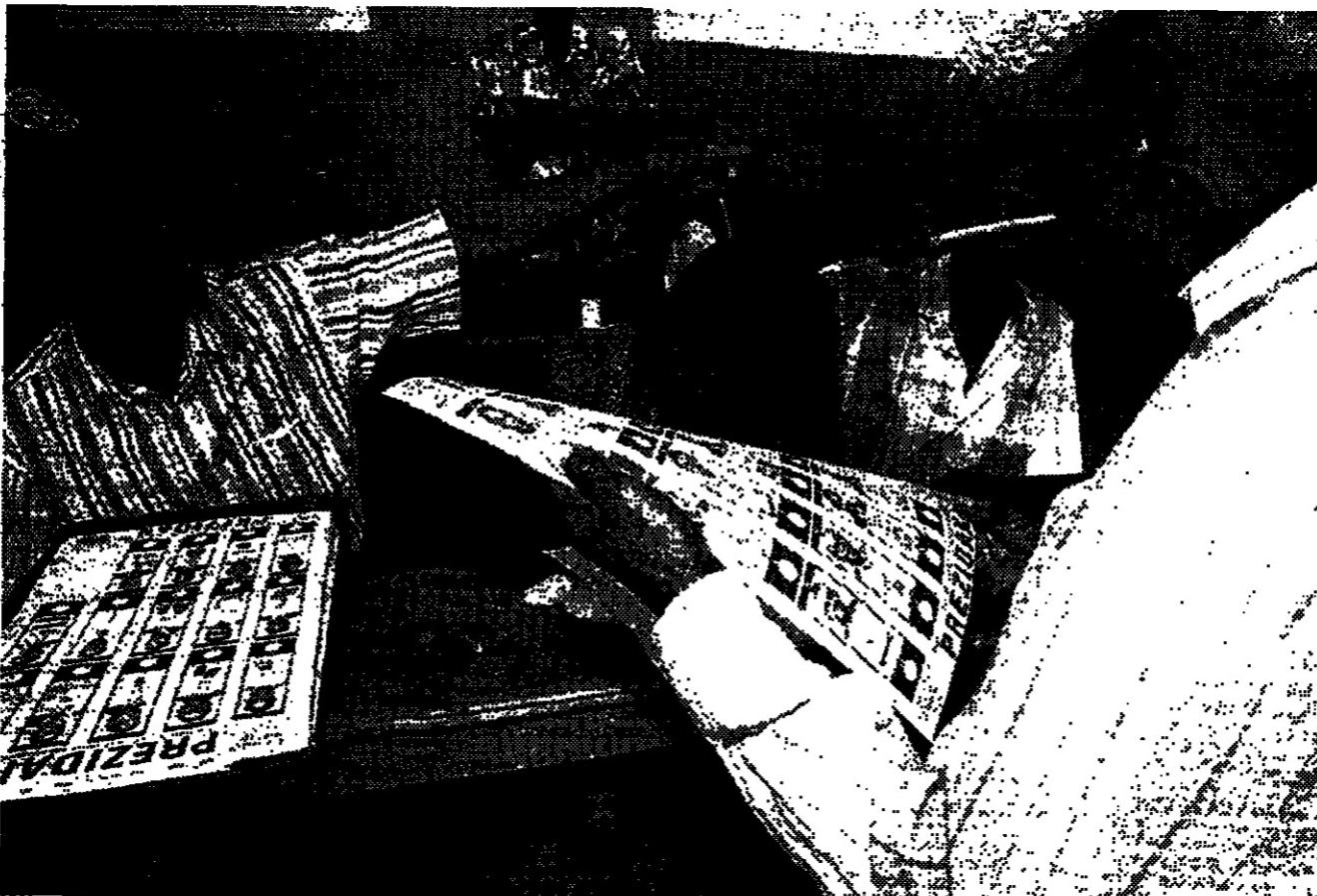
Asked about the president's accusations, Senator Bob Dole of Kansas, the majority leader and Mr. Clinton's most likely opponent in next year's election, snapped, "He can stop that garbage that he's spewing out on his radio program and everything else."

On Sunday, Mr. Clinton said, "I very much hope that in the spirit of the season we can resume these talks in good faith."

His chief of staff, Leon E. Panetta, said later, "I think the president would be more than willing to sit in the room with the Republican leadership, the Democratic leadership, as long as there aren't preconditions, as long as there aren't ultimatums, as long as there aren't threats about shutdown."

He added, "We are not going to surrender before we negotiate."

Mr. Panetta also said: "It isn't the Senate that's the problem here," adding: "The House Republicans have basically been in a lock. They're on a revolution. They want to get the contract done regardless of what happens here."



A Haitian voter checking the list of candidates on Sunday at a polling station in Port-au-Prince.

The Newt-Donor Show Moves On

WASHINGTON — Interviews and recently released federal records show that the House speaker, Newt Gingrich, has invited critical attention by bestowing special treatment on donors who gave substantial sums to his political project — the GOP Action Committee, which raised untold millions of dollars in the last decade for the Republican revolution that Mr. Gingrich was fostering. By using the committee, Mr. Gingrich could encourage corporate executives to donate unlimited amounts with the assurance that their contributions would not be revealed in records open to the public.

In letters to supporters, the committee left little doubt that those who gave at least \$10,000 a year would enjoy extraordinary access to the Republican congressman from Georgia.

Part of what made the committee "unique," according to the letters, was the opportunity to "work with Newt Gingrich and to influence his issues and direction." Mr. Gingrich himself extended invitations for contributors to accompany him on 6 A.M. walks for "an hour of uninterrupted conversation."

These actions raise new questions about whether the man who now is House speaker exceeded the bounds of propriety. Although it is accepted practice for members of Congress to seek financial support aggressively, they are prohibited by law from taking official action in exchange for anything of value, including contributions.

Since his peers elected him speaker in January, Mr. Gingrich has been dogged by allegations that he violated ethical standards. (LAT)

New Hampshire, Top of the Pops

CONCORD, New Hampshire — In the last two weeks, the New Hampshire secretary of state, William Gardner, has accepted the \$1,000 filing fee from 43 candidates for the presidential nomination from the Republican, Democratic and Libertarian Parties.

When the filing period closed Friday, there were 21 Democrats, including President Bill Clinton, 22 contenders in the Republican primary and two for the Libertarian vote.

In addition to Senator Bob Dole of Kansas, the Senate majority leader, and Senator Phil Gramm of Texas, the other well-known Republican candidates who filed were: the commentator Patrick Buchanan; Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana; former Governor Lamar Alexander of Tennessee; Alan J. Keyes, a former State Department official; Representative Robert Dornan of California; the publisher Malcolm S. Forbes, Jr., and Morris Taylor, an Illinois businessman.

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Quote/Unquote

Mr. Dole on Mr. Clinton and the breakdown in budget negotiations between Congress and the White House: "I don't think he's telling the American people the truth, and if he thinks he is engaged in serious budget negotiations he ought to look at the budget."

Senator Tom Daschle, the Democratic leader on Mr. Dole's account of the negotiations: "His version of the truth and mine could not be more different. My version is that it was the Republicans this afternoon who got up and walked out of the room." (NYT)

Teenage Use of Illicit Drugs Rises Again

By Pierre Thomas
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The number of American teenagers using illicit drugs increased again last year for the fourth consecutive year with fewer young people even worried about the dangers of substance abuse, according to a survey.

More secondary school students are using marijuana, LSD, hallucinogens, amphetamines, stimulants and inhalants every year, with the levels doubling in several categories since the start of the decade, according to the survey by the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research.

Several other recent reports have similarly concluded that drug use among teenagers is steadily increasing in the 1990s following a decline in the 1980s. The Michigan survey's release stoked an already heated partisan debate over the

Away From Politics

• Murders reported to the police plunged by 12 percent in the first half of this year, the largest drop in at least 35 years, the FBI reported Sunday. There was a 1 percent decrease overall in reported crimes and a 5 percent drop in violent crimes alone. (AP)

said overall turnout was low, attributing the lack of interest to parliamentary votes earlier in the year, a short campaign and a reluctance by many to see Mr. Aristide leave office.

Voting was largely peaceful, with few reports of irregularities.

A United Nations vehicle was hit by gunfire in rural Petit Goave two hours before polls opened, but no one was hurt. A UN spokesman termed the shooting an "isolated incident" and said it was unclear

whether it was election-related.

Turnout appeared weakest in the capital, said Micheline Beguin, deputy director of the Organization of American States election-monitoring team.

A U.S. official speculated that overall turnout could be as low as 30 percent to 35 percent. The election that brought Mr. Aristide to power in 1990 showed a turnout of 47 percent. Former Prime Minister René Préval, running under Mr. Aristide's Lavalas party banner,

was widely expected to sweep the field of 14 candidates and avoid a runoff election in January.

After casting his ballot, Mr.

Préval told reporters he hoped for a presidential term "without any coup d'état or thuggery that was always the case in the past to interrupt the process."

The United States has bidden the election as a decisive test of the policy of military intervention that restored Mr. Aristide to power in 1994 after he was ousted in a 1991 coup.

Clemons, 53, the trucker charged in the attack, had been taking the antidepressant Prozac, but that his prescription recently ran out. After the shooting, Mr. Clemons surrendered to the police. (AP)

• A federal judge in Salt Lake City, Utah, sentenced Earl Shumway to the maximum six and a half years in prison for stealing from Indian burial sites. (AP)

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INTERNATIONAL

Fog Thwarts U.S. Troop Landings in Bosnia

Reuters

TUZLA AIR BASE, BOSNIA — Losing a battle with a thick cold blanket of Balkan fog, U.S. advance forces for a NATO-led peacekeeping operation in Bosnia spent Sunday waiting here for transport planes that never came.

While the order to move to come Saturday, U.S. troops are not now expected to start arriving in Bosnia in force until the end of the week unless there is a break in the weather, U.S. officials said, something that is considered unlikely.

No planes have landed at this former MiG fighter base in the snow-covered woods of northeastern Bosnia for four days as the cold, wet weather has frustrated American plans to airlift equipment and 1,000 men to open a U.S. base.

Two planes from Ramstein Air Base in Germany carrying

special ground control equipment tried to pierce the cloud cover on Sunday, but turned away at the last minute and flew off to Aviano in Italy.

"Why put people at undue risk?" said Major Ryan Yantis as yet another transport plane tried to put down, found the lack of visibility too dangerous and headed off to Italy.

Major Yantis said that if need be, the U.S. Army could run its deployment of 20,000 troops from a former Soviet Army base across the Hungarian-Croatian border at Kapsovar.

The base there is being set up now as a logistics and staging point for the 1st Armored Division and other units heading for Bosnia from bases in Germany.

■ **NATO in Power**

Rick Atkinson of The Washington Post reported earlier from Bad Kreuznach, Germany:

Like a new sheriff sent to tame a lawless town, NATO formally pinned its badge of authority in Bosnia this weekend, hopeful that a make-my-day attitude and intimidating firepower will suffice to keep the peace.

The transfer of power from the United Nations to the Western alliance has consequences both practical and symbolic. In effect, Bosnia is now NATO's problem. And in large measure that means Bosnia is now an American problem. As the alliance's undisputed leader, the United States dominates both the chain of command and the ranks of the NATO force.

The new command structure extends from General George A. Joulwan of the United States, NATO's supreme commander in Mons, Belgium, to Admiral Leighton Smith of the U.S. Navy, NATO's southern commander in Naples, who will

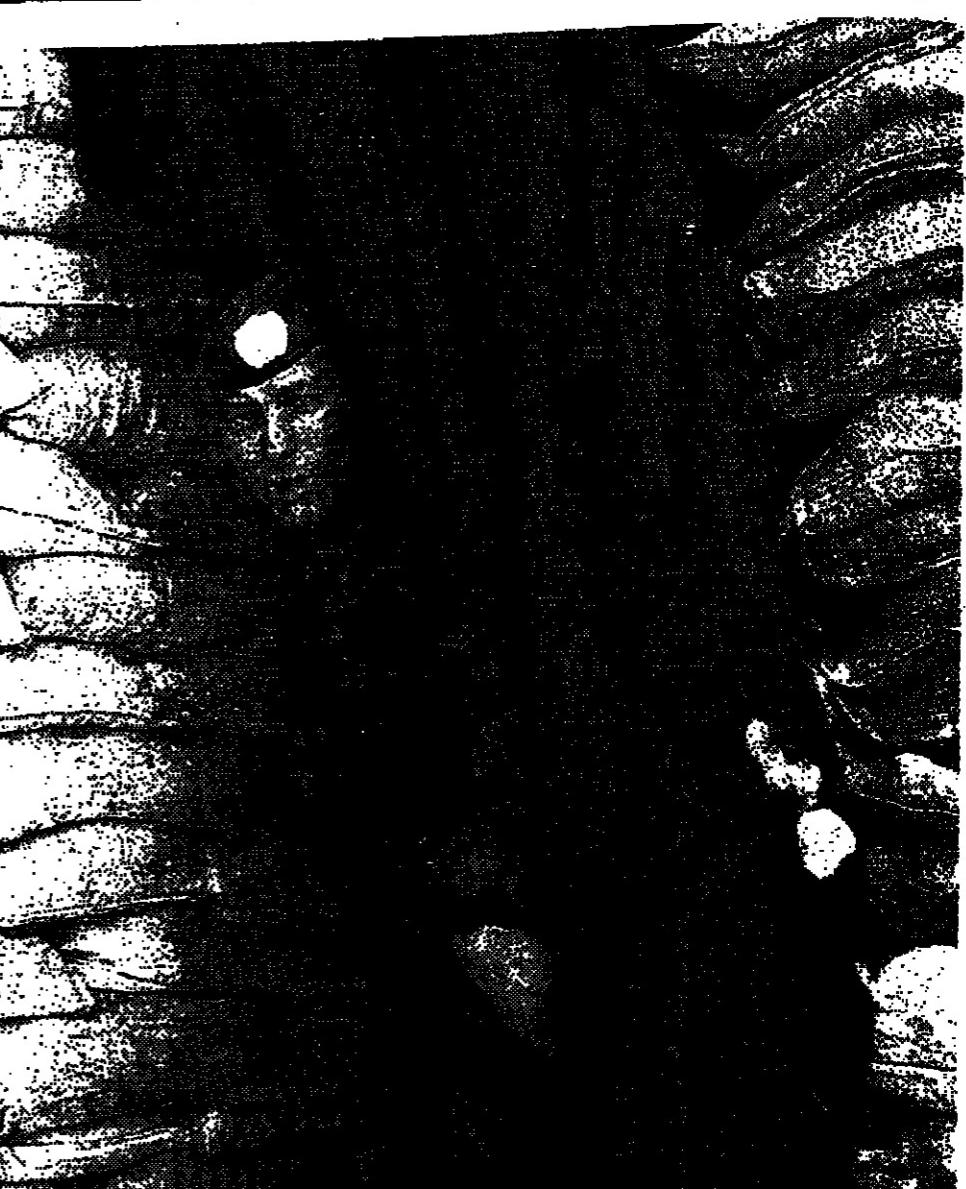
establish field headquarters in Sarajevo and Zagreb, the capitals of Bosnia and Croatia; then to Lieutenant General Michael Walker of Britain, the force's ground commander in Sarajevo, and down to three multi-national division commanders, including Major General William L. Nash, commander of the U.S. Army's 1st Armored Division and the northeast Bosnian sector at Tuzla.

For a substantial portion of the force's 60,000 troops, the transfer of authority is as simple as changing hats. Many of the 13,000 British and 10,000 French soldiers committed to Operation Joint Endeavor will swap UN blue berets for their NATO helmets. Like Turkey, Norway and several other participants in the NATO force, Britain and France have long had troops serving in Bosnia, albeit under the constraints of a UN peacekeeping mission. The

Americans, however, arrive as "the new kids on the block," as one British analyst put it, with a large part of the force's arsenal and troops.

The U.S. units head into Bosnia with a mixture of anxiety and excitement, leavened with barracks humor. One senior officer, just back from a reconnaissance mission, described Tuzla — a gritty mining town — as "Pittsburgh without a football team."

Another officer said the landscape "is like West Virginia, except here the Hatfields and McCoys are armed with AK-47s." Some soldiers also have packed a don't-head-on-me belligerence. Asked whether his unit is equipped with non-lethal weapons like pellet guns or stun grenades, a captain said: "We're going down there with our full basic load of ammo and then some. The message is: Don't screw with us."



A French soldier in the UN peacekeeping force peering from a bunker on Mount Igman, near Sarajevo. UN peacekeepers are exchanging their blue berets for NATO helmets.

Q&A / How to Heal the Scars**Children Caught Up in the Crossfire of War**

Last week, Unicef issued its 50th anniversary issue on the state of world's children, focusing on the plight of children caught up in wars and conflicts. The organization's executive director, Carol Bellamy, discussed the issues with Barry James of the International Herald Tribune.

Q. Your report points to a growing involvement of children not only as victims of war but also as participants. Could you explain?

A. What really shocked me was the realization that a 10-year-old can take apart and put together an AK-47 rifle with the greatest of ease. I always thought of Marines training with these huge packs on their backs, but of course the weapons are so much lighter today. The technology makes it that much easier to kill people.

Q. So there are literally children's wars.

A. Yes, there are.

Q. Is it possible for these boy soldiers ever to lead a normal life?

A. We think they can, but we don't have much information. It is really only in recent years that there has been such

a dramatic expansion of children fighting in wars. It's estimated that in Mozambique there were 10,000 boy soldiers, some as young as six.

In some countries, more than two-thirds of the kids have seen people murdered, 90 percent of the kids have seen dead bodies, 70 percent of the kids have seen people tortured or beaten.

So we do think our programs should include some kind of counseling, and we are training teachers and community workers, as well as psychologists.

Q. Another problem highlighted by you and other organizations is that of land mines. Some of these costs far less than a box of your greetings cards.

A. That's right. Or less than a bottle of the vitamin A pills that would stop blindness. Do you know that it costs approximately \$3 to produce and lay a mine, and \$600 to \$1,000 to get it up?

It is estimated that there are still more than 110 million land mines in more than 64 countries. And more are being laid than are being dug up. They are there for no other reason but to kill or maim.

Q. Do you agree with those who say that large numbers of children today literally are slaves?

A. Yes I do. Whether it is sexual or labor exploitation, we think you can call it slavery. There are still unscrupulous merchants who use children in industries like rug-making when they ought to be in school.

Their little fingers are wonderful for this kind of work. But they are living in the most terrible abject conditions.

The same is true of girls who are being sold or sent out of their communities, sometimes by a parent to be prostitutes. It's terrible; it goes on. It exists much too much as we approach the 21st century and we cannot allow it to continue. It is the modern version of slavery.

Q. What about the problem of street children?

A. We think it is getting worse. There is disintegration of the community and of the family in places like Latin America, Kenya, India, the Philippines and elsewhere. There are no easy solutions. The anchor of the problem is poverty. It is very reflective of dysfunctional communities.

Q. The report contains some grim reading. Do you find yourself getting overwhelmed by the problems?

A. There is extraordinary misery, but nothing creates such a sense of hope as working with children. Earlier this year I visited one of our programs in a sprawling camp for displaced people in Liberia. It was awful; but after hit, and they had just had a cholera outbreak.

I went to this makeshift school and I wondered whether the kids had written anything in their books. I stopped a little girl and asked to see her book. She opened it to an essay called "animals with backbones." I thought, my God, she's the one with the backbone.

PACIFIC: 'Building Block' of Security to Be Signed **AUSTRIA: Rightists Fall Short**

Continued from Page 1

to sovereignty over a vast area of the South China Sea include a gas field off Indonesia's Natuna Islands, which Jakarta is developing at a cost of about \$35 billion with American and Japanese energy companies.

Indonesia's official Amara news agency reported that a major defense exercise involving troops, warplanes and naval vessels was under way in waters around the Natunas on Friday.

It quoted Rear Admiral Widodo, head of the Indonesian Navy's Western Fleet, as saying that the exercise should convince investors not to "worry about security when investing in this area."

The defense ministers of Indonesia and Australia and the heads of their armed forces were to attend the signing ceremony on Monday in Jakarta.

The full text of the Australia-Indonesia Agreement on Main-

taining Security was to be released after the signing.

But Mr. Keating said that it would oblige both countries to consult each other in the case of adverse challenges to either party or to their common security interests and, if appropriate, consider measures which might be taken by them individually or jointly and in accordance with the processes of each government.

He said the agreement applied "only to external challenges, not those that might arise from internal developments" in either nation.

Mr. Keating also said the agreement formalized an understanding between Jakarta and Canberra in August to hold annual meetings of their defense ministers, exchange intelligence, and increase joint military training, exercises, strategic consultations and visits.

Continued from Page 1

character and who have remained true to their beliefs despite the greatest opposition."

After the election results became clear, Mr. Haider blamed his failure to win more votes on "slogans of fear" that the Social Democrats had used against him.

"We certainly cannot say that this election was the fulfillment of our hopes, but there's no need to be overly dramatic," Mr. Haider said.

"We are going to be the decisive opposition in Parliament and we'll show greater strength in the years ahead."

The election was held nearly three years early, after the center-right Austrian People's Party, which has been in coalition with the Social Democrats for most of the last 50 years, abruptly abandoned the coalition. The leader of the People's Party, Wolfgang Schüssel, gambled that the climate was right for him to finish ahead of Mr. Vranitzky and thus form a new rightist coalition, but his gamble did not pay off.

The People's party finished with 28.1 percent of the vote, almost exactly what it won last year. The results mean that a coalition between the People's Party and Mr. Haider's Freedom Party was arithmetically possible, but Mr. Haider joined many other analysts in predicting that the long-standing two-party coalition would be rebuilt.

■ **A Swing to Stability**

The swing behind the Social Democrats, who have governed for the last 25 years but suffered heavy losses in last year's elections, indicated that most Austrians would fear a Haider ac-

cession to power and want the stability of past decades to continue. The Associated Press reported.

The conservative Austrian People's Party, who broke the nine-year-old coalition with the Social Democrats last October, did marginally better than last year, but missed their declared goal of becoming No. 1.

The conservatives appeared to add one seat for a total of 53. Projections showed Mr. Haider's party stagnant, losing 0.1 percent. With 22.1 percent of the popular vote, his party remains the strongest right-wing party in Europe with 42 seats in Parliament.

Some 83 percent of more than 5.7 million eligible voters took part in the ballot.

Continued from Page 1

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As Mr. Kissinger told it in his memoirs, he showed Mr. Assad the letters of invitation he had prepared, and to his surprise the Syrian leader approved the entire text, with no reservations. Mr. Kissinger was delighted — until the very end of the meeting, when Mr. Assad noted in passing that Syria had no intention of attending the conference.

Recalling that story, Menachem Shalev of the Maariv newspaper joined many other Israelis in noting that "before we start announcing peace with Syria as an accomplished fact, we had better wait until Assad has said his final word."

Yet it is also a fact that the new Israeli prime minister, Shimon Peres, has been around even longer than Mr. Assad, and that he was the man most responsible for making peace with Yasser Arafat, the

Continued from Page 1

thought it apt to recall a meeting Henry A. Kissinger had with President Assad 22 years earlier, when the former secretary of state was preparing the Geneva Conference after the Yom Kippur War of 1973.

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The fact is that the outline of an Israeli-Syrian peace has never been a great mystery — Syria wants to get back the Golan Heights and to receive an endorsement of its control over Lebanon. Israel wants air-tight security, normalization of relations and a comprehensive peace. There are many issues that would require considerable work, to be sure, most notably the sharing of water sources in the Golan. But as the Palestinian negotiations demonstrated, technical prob-

lems can be worked out once the political decision is made to strike a deal.

Yet the fact that the outlines of an agreement are relatively evident has not made reaching one any easier. On the contrary, it has often made attempted negotiations into contests over "who should blame first" — who should be first to make a concession.

Since a peace is really all he has to offer,

Mr. Assad has been more prone to make procedural questions into bargaining chips in themselves. He has insisted in the past that Israel give a public assurance of its readiness to return the whole of the Golan Heights even before sitting down to talk.

On his side, the late Yitzhak Rabin ruled that ambassadors and military officers from the two sides must first resolve security matters before talks can begin on broader issues.

The upshot was that the Syrians walked

out of talks twice over the past year. Our

reason was that Mr. Assad evidently did not believe that Mr. Rabin was really intent on making peace — nor that he could sell it to the Israeli public.

RUSSIA: Voter Turnout Is Higher Than Expected

Continued from Page 1

months. The presidency is the real power, and Mr. Yeltsin has usually been able to circumvent legislative路ways.

Russian officials, however, who closed well-guarded polling stations in Chechnya early, said turnout there was around 70 percent.

The election commission said the turnout was 37 percent by 5:30 P.M. Moscow time. More than 80 percent of soldiers had already voted, the Itar-Tass press agency quoted Defense Ministry officials as saying.

A hard-line victory would be important mainly as a preview of presidential elections in six

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BOSNIA: West Moves Into the Wreckage of Tito's 'Brotherhood and Unity'

Continued from Page 1

of separate identity. Tolerance was state policy in the old Yugoslavia, enshrined in the slogan "Brotherhood and Unity" and enforced by the security apparatus of Marshal Tito, the Communist dictator who ruled the country as president from 1945 to 1980. The model was Sarajevo — a graceful city nestled in the mountains where Serbs, Croats and Muslims freely mixed and married and where Catholic church steeples, Orthodox onion domes and Muslim minarets stood side by side.

Yet in pursuing

EUROPE

Trains Roll In France, But Union Sets Protest

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — France emerged slowly on Sunday from a three-week wave of strikes that shook the government and forced Prime Minister Alain Juppé to freeze part of an ambitious plan to curb the state's mounting deficits.

The state railroad company, SNCF, said between 50 percent and 60 percent of normal train services were running in most regions of France.

In Paris, 11 of the 13 subway lines ran services ranging from scarce to virtually complete on Sunday. The regional express trains that link the capital with its suburbs were still mostly idled, and only about 20 percent of the city's buses were running.

But as more and more workers voted to end their action, the prospects were good for a full re-establishment of services in the week leading up to Christmas. This was good news for city stores, which have seen their business plunge as a result of the strikes.

However, the Communist-affiliated General Labor Confederation, or CGT, called for another day of protest Tuesday, and some union bosses warned that the labor unrest could continue after the Christmas and New Year holidays in an attempt to force Mr. Juppé to abandon his plan to reduce welfare spending and even to drive him from office.

The CGT and the rival Workers' Force, or FO, labor confederation headed another day of protest Saturday, which they claimed brought 2 million workers onto the streets of Paris and other cities. The Interior Ministry said fewer than 60,000 demonstrated.

While backing away from his proposal to reorganize the deficit-ridden state railroad system and end special pension privileges for state workers, Mr. Juppé has clung to the central plank of his program, the reform of the health insurance program through parliamentary control of spending and the introduction of a 0.5 percent tax to pay off the program's deficit within 13 years.

This enabled President Jacques Chirac to give a confident assurance at the European Union summit meeting in Madrid over the weekend that France would be on target to join the single European currency in 1999. To meet the tight criteria for joining, France must reduce its state deficit from more than 5 percent to less than 3 percent of gross domestic product. Mr. Chirac recognized the skepticism and sometimes aggressive reaction against the currency reform, but said it was vital to ensure social progress.

Mr. Juppé will hold a "social summit" with union leaders on Thursday to discuss subjects such as youth unemployment and the reduction of working hours. One proposal was a ban on overtime payments, obliging workers to take time off rather than money.

The organization representing employers said it would not attend the meeting, however, arguing that the private sector should not be dragged into a dispute that has so far engaged only workers for the state. Commentators said the meeting could be crucial in enabling Mr. Juppé to survive as prime minister.

Critics said Mr. Juppé had mishandled the crisis by introducing too many changes at once, with inadequate preparation and explanation. Marc Blondel, the FO's secretary-general, said that the prime minister's aloof, technocratic methods had engendered "hatred" among workers. But Mr. Blondel's handling of the strike has caused a split within his organization, and some observers predicted he could lose an election for the FO leadership in February.

A poll published in *Le Monde* indicated that a slight majority of French people, 49 percent to 47 percent, believe that Mr. Juppé should stick to his health reform plan. Another poll in the newspaper *Le Journal du Dimanche* showed a slight increase in popularity for Mr. Juppé, to 28 percent, from 26 percent before the strike. Thirty percent of those responding said they were very or somewhat satisfied with Mr. Chirac compared to 27 percent in November.

Despite the almost total lack of public transportation in Paris for 24 days, an estimated three-quarters of workers in the private sector managed to get to their jobs without missing a single day. The strike produced an explosion of bicycle riding in the city.



PAPAL PECK — Pope John Paul II on a pastoral visit to a Roman church Sunday.

BRIEFLY EUROPE

Splits Cited in German Party

BONN — Germany's new justice minister, Edvard Schmidt-Jorzig, warned Sunday that splits in his centrist Free Democrats were damaging the party at a time when it needed unity to ensure the survival of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government. (Reuters)

Papandreou in Critical Condition

ATHENS — Greece's prime minister, Andreas Papandreou, on life-support systems for a month in the hospital, was in critical condition Sunday and waging a "titanic battle" against a new secondary infection that struck on Saturday. The hospital bulletin Sunday said doctors were still uncertain where the infection was coming from and were using a wide range of antibiotics to fight it. (Reuters)

González Calls End to Parliament

MADRID — Prime Minister Felipe González said over the weekend that Spain's Parliament would hold its final session on Dec. 28. Mr. González, hampered by a series of scandals, has promised general elections in March but has yet to set a firm date. His mandate does not officially expire until June 1997. (Reuters)

Britons Want a Vote on Currency

LONDON — Most British voters oppose the idea of a single European currency and want a referendum on whether Britain should join, according to an opinion poll. But 50 percent believe Britain might ultimately have to sign up to avoid being left behind.

Seventy-five percent of those asked in the poll by the Sunday Times newspaper said they favored a referendum. Sixty percent said they were opposed. (Reuters)

Summit on Drugs Is Proposed

MADRID — France, Germany and the Netherlands have agreed to hold a meeting in the first quarter of next year to discuss ways to combat drug trafficking. President Jacques Chirac of France said over the weekend. (Reuters)

Calendar

European Union events scheduled Monday:

BRUSSELS: EU environment ministers meet; agriculture ministers meet.

MADRID: Signing ceremony of EU-Chilean declaration attended by Manuel Marín, the commissioner for Latin America.

PARIS: The commissioner for finances, Yves-Thibault de Silguy, addresses conference on EU single currency.

BRUSSELS: Marcelino Oreja, commissioner in charge of Treaty of Maastricht reforms, presents the results of the Madrid European Council to the commission of the European Parliament.

Sources: Agence Europe, AFP

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INTER-CONTINENTAL
HOTELS AND RESORTS

Timetable for Expanding EU Is Hailed

By Tom Buerkle
International Herald Tribune

MADRID — The European Union's decision to start membership negotiations with some Eastern European countries in 1998 should encourage economic and political reform in the former Communist countries by offering them the clearest guarantee yet that their future lies in the West, EU officials said.

The decision by EU leaders meeting here over the weekend marked the bloc's first commitment to a timetable for enlargement to the East. It was hailed by Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany as a "breakthrough" that would encourage Eastern European countries to accelerate privatization and other moves to a free market to prepare themselves to compete in the EU single market.

"We're now on a track that is irreversible," said Dick Spring, the Irish foreign minister.

But if the direction is clear, the European Union remains deeply divided over the details of enlargement, and those divisions were likely to delay actual membership for most Eastern countries until well beyond the year 2000, EU officials said.

An effort by Sweden and Denmark to ensure that the Baltic states would start negotiations at the same time as other Eastern countries was rebuffed by Mr. Kohl, who left no doubt that Germany wanted to give priority to its immediate neighbors — Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic.

"It has been made very clear that there will not be a package deal," he said.

Still, EU officials said the budding fight over enlargement

stained in the UN vote. Mr. Chirac actually thanked the Eastern leaders for their "gesture of friendship and European solidarity," said Catherine Colonna, his spokeswoman.

EU officials said the incident illustrated a deep personal dislike between the two men that risks disrupting EU affairs when Italy takes over the presidency in January.

Indeed, Mr. Chirac threatened to spoil Italy's plans for a special EU summit meeting in Turin on March 29 by saying the occasion did not merit the presence of heads of government. He told fellow EU leaders, apparently in jest, that he planned to be "at the other end of the world" on that date.

Foreign Minister Susanna Agnelli said Italy would invite Mr. Chirac and the other 14 EU leaders anyway.

"If President Chirac is at Munro, too bad," she said.

— TOM BUERKLE

Chirac-Dini Feud Grows Hotter

International Herald Tribune

MADRID — What started in November as a diplomatic spat between Paris and Rome over French nuclear testing turned into personal animosity and incomprehension between President Jacques Chirac and Prime Minister Lamberto Dini at the European Union summit meeting here.

Mr. Dini told reporters that Mr. Chirac had personally upstaged the heads of 12 East European and Mediterranean governments at a meeting with EU leaders on Saturday for having opposed France's nuclear tests at the UN.

"I will never forget this," Mr. Dini quoted Mr. Chirac as saying.

The Italian leader got the quote right — but blew the context.

In fact all 12 of the countries, which are seeking to enter the Union and do not need to irritate the bloc's second-largest power, ab-

illustrated that the Union was progressing from vague promises to increasingly concrete commitments toward Eastern Europe.

The commitment to a negotiating timetable, which came one day after EU leaders approved a plan to introduce a single currency in 1999, marked the bloc's most successful summit meeting in years.

"I had wanted the summit to give a strong message," said Jacques Santer, the president of the European Commission. "It did."

Leaders of the Eastern countries welcomed the agreement when they met with EU leaders Saturday.

"We are sure that we will be in the first group, because we

are already fulfilling the criteria," said the typically confident Czech prime minister, Vaclav Klaus.

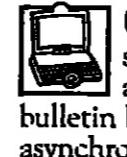
How long membership negotiations might last, once the EU decides in December 1997 which countries are ready, is anyone's guess. The Eastern states hope talks can be completed in just over a year, as was the case in Austria, Finland and Sweden.

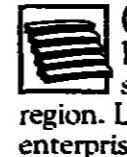
But many EU officials cautioned that a better model was Spain and Portugal, which took more than six years to negotiate their entry because of their lower level of economic development.

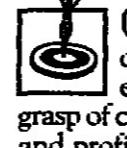
"It will be more difficult this time because the differences in development are bigger," one senior commission official said.

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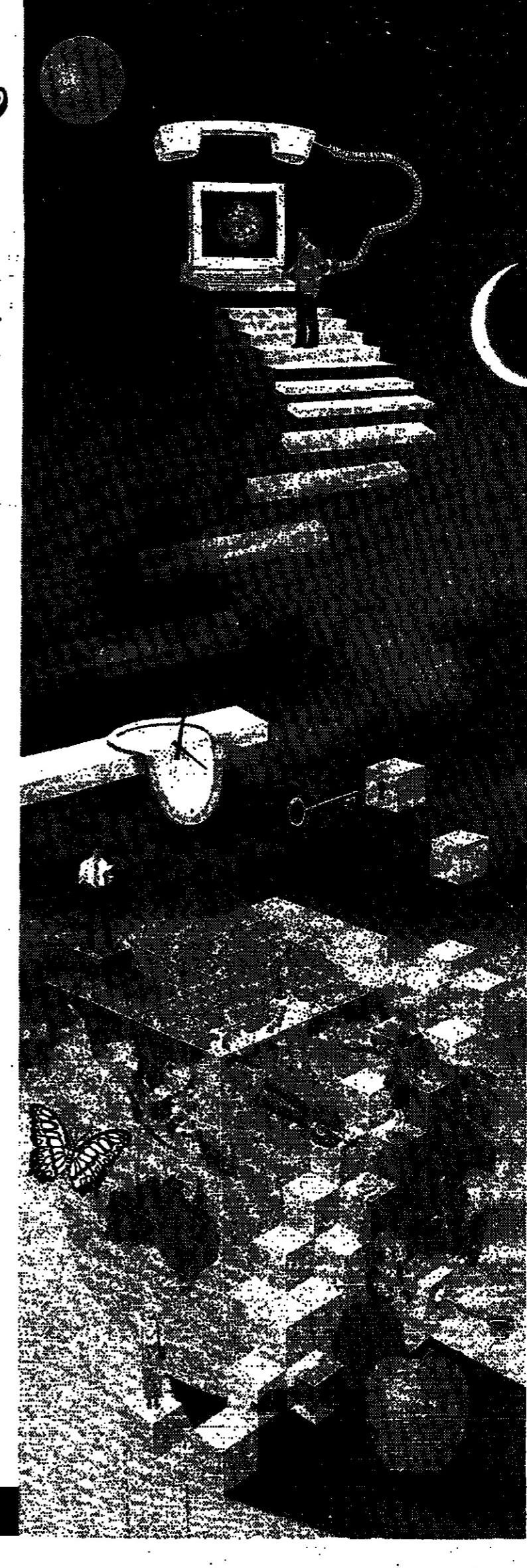
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ASIA

BRIEFLY

3-Party Merger Is Urged in Japan

TOKYO — The three parties in Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's governing coalition may merge into a single new political entity that could dominate Japanese politics, a veteran politician said Sunday.

"It is possible that the Liberal Democratic Party, the Social Democratic Party and the Sakigake party would become one party under a name such as the Liberal Socialist Party," said Shizuka Kamei, a former Liberal Democratic transportation minister. "There are no longer major differences between the three parties."

(Reuters)

Taipei to Take Delivery of F-16s

TAIPEI — Lockheed Martin plans to begin delivery of 16 warplanes to Taiwan in July, the United Daily News reported Sunday. The delivery of the jet fighters will help Taiwan keep pace with an arms buildup in China, the Taiwanese Defense Ministry has said.

Taiwan agreed in 1992 to buy 150 of the F-16s for about \$6 billion.

(Reuters)

U.S. to Put Warships Near Koreas

SEOUL — A U.S. naval battle group led by the aircraft carrier Independence and two nuclear submarines will stay near the Korean Peninsula next month to deter "any kind of provocations" by North Korea, a military report said Sunday.

The Independence will take part in a sea exercise in January near the peninsula, accompanied by submarines, destroyers and support ships, the South Korean joint chiefs of staff said.

(AFP)

Cambodian Prince Accepts Exile

PHNOM PENH — Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the half-brother of King Norodom Sihanouk, has agreed to go into exile rather than face trial on charges linked to an alleged assassination plot against Cambodia's second prime minister, Hun Sen.

"Your faithful and humble servant accepts, totally, the farsighted solution," he said in a letter written from detention. King Sihanouk, in a response, thanked Prince Sisowath for accepting his solution, which the king described as "the least bad for you." Both letters were made public by the palace on Sunday.

(Reuters)

For the Record

At least six people were killed and seven wounded Sunday in a rocket strike on Kabul, witnesses said.

(Reuters)

VOICES From Asia:

Ohn Gyaw, the foreign minister of Burma, on his country's preparations to join the Association of South East Asian Nations: "When we become a member, we do not want to be a sleeping partner. We would like to be very active. But without experience and without a foundation of economic infrastructure, one cannot do it. We have to liberalize our laws. We have to make arrangements for the expansion of our trade. There are many things, many considerations."

(IHT)



Hong Kong demonstrators on Sunday protesting China's sentencing of Wei Jingsheng.

Wei Trial: An 'Ordinary' Case**China Judge Calls 14-Year Term Lenient**

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BEDING — Judge Wang Ming, who sentenced China's foremost dissident, Wei Jingsheng, to 14 years in jail for subversion, called the trial "just an ordinary case" and said the punishment was lenient.

His comments were reported in an interview published by a China-backed Hong Kong newspaper, Ta Kung Pao. Also interviewed were the other judge in the case, Wang Yisheng, and the prosecutor, Wang Huajun.

Mr. Wei's sentencing Wednesday and the authorities' handing of the case drew widespread condemnation. But the three officials insisted China's legal procedures were followed to the letter. The chief judge said the trial was "fair" because Mr. Wei attacked the government in court. He said the magistrates allowed Mr. Wei to continue his defense despite two objections from the prosecution.

The Chinese officials also said it was legal to imprison Mr. Wei for 20 months before he was formally charged because

there is no limitation on being under house arrest during police investigation. However, observers said Mr. Wei was in police custody, not at home, after police picked him up in April 1994.

The chief judge said there was nothing unusual about the swift sentencing because "this was just an ordinary case, so we had the authority to decide the sentence and announce it at the same court session."

The judge disputed Mr. Wei's argument that his economic and cultural activities — such as his allegedly illegal art exhibits and efforts to start a bank — were separate from his political cause.

"Rather, all these activities were to serve his purpose of overthrowing the government," the judge said.

He cited a letter Mr. Wei wrote to a friend, Liu Qing, in which the dissident observed: "A single bean sprout can be nipped by a finger, but a tray of bean sprouts can support a mortar. Why then don't we pool our strength and wait for an opportunity?"

The newspaper report quoted

Pakistan Sees Nuclear Threat**Test by India Would Force a Response**

Reuters

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Pakistan might be forced across the nuclear threshold if India goes ahead with reported plans for a nuclear test, Pakistani commentators said Sunday.

"Should India have its second nuclear test, we will demand that Pakistan examine its options in light of the heightened threat to our national security," said Mushahid Hussain, spokesman for the opposition Pakistan Muslim League party.

"This is a test case for the West, particularly the United States, since they talk so much on nuclear nonproliferation," he said. "As Pakistanis and Muslims, we feel their concern is selective. Pakistan is targeted, while known nuclear powers like Israel and India are exempted from American pressure."

India exploded a nuclear device in 1974, but like Pakistan denies having nuclear weapons. U.S. officials say both countries could swiftly assemble atomic bombs.

Pakistan's official response to a New York Times report that India could be preparing for its second nuclear test has been muted.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said that such a test would set back nonproliferation efforts and "jeopardize peace and stability in the region."

He said it would also have "grave implications" for efforts to achieve a comprehensive test ban treaty.

India has dismissed the newspaper report as "highly speculative," but has not denied it outright.

A commentary in the English-language daily The News said an Indian nuclear test would create a security peril for Pakistan that it could meet only by carrying out a similar test.

"It will force Pakistan to leave the long-held line of being a screw's turn away from being a declared nuclear power," wrote a columnist, Syed Talat Hussain.

The Karachi-based Dawn newspaper urged the United States, which imposed sanctions on Pakistan in 1990 because of suspicions about its nuclear program, to put similar pressure on India.

furiate the seven-nation Association of South East Asian Nations, which last week signed a treaty banning nuclear arms from Southeast Asia.

Pakistan has called for a nuclear-free zone in the South Asia region, but it has refused to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty unless India also signs it.

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INTERNATIONAL

Arafat Declares Candidacy for Palestinian Post

By Barton Gellman
Washington Post Service

JERUSALEM — Three days after Israeli forces pulled out of Nablus, Yasser Arafat paid his first visit in 28 years to the West Bank's largest city last week and declared his candidacy for Palestinian president from the roof of an abandoned military post.

Shouting into a microphone atop the former Israeli headquarters, Mr. Arafat recited the list of six Arab cities to receive self-rule by the end of the month — Jenin, Tulkarm and Nablus already and Qalqilya, Ramallah and Bethlehem in coming days — and promised that "liberation" was coming for Jerusalem too.

"We promise to continue, step by step, building the Palestinian independent state, with its capital, noble Jerusalem," Mr. Arafat said. Sovereignty over Arab-dominated East Jerusalem, conquered by Israel from Jordan in 1967, is a Palestinian demand in continuing talks with Israel.

Mr. Arafat has long made clear that he planned to run for president of the Palestinian Council that will be formed Jan. 20. He chose Nablus, a center of Palestinian nationalism, to make his candidacy official.

"From liberated Nablus, I say to you: Will you permit me to nominate myself?" Mr. Arafat asked. Thousands of Palestinians roared a joyous approval.

The timing designed by Mr. Arafat

and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel, in the accord they signed in Washington on Sept. 28, could not be more favorable to Mr. Arafat at the polls.

His election campaign coincides with scenes of celebration as Israeli forces withdraw from cities where they were regarded as despised occupiers.

No potential opponent reaches double digits in opinion polls, and Mr. Arafat's election is regarded as certain. The 83-seat council will have executive and legislative powers.

The longtime chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, who has ruled the Gaza Strip and Jericho for 17 months, expressed his solidarity with Palestinian prisoners still held in Israeli jails, singling out Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the spiritual leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement, known as Hamas.

There are increasing signs that Mr. Arafat has succeeded in splitting Hamas. Hamas once opposed any compromise with Israel or any participation in self-rule, but its local leadership now sees less appeal in estranging itself from the Palestinian state in the making.

Many Hamas leaders appear likely to take part, directly or indirectly, in the Jan. 20 ballot. One senior leader in Gaza, Emad Falouji, has announced his candidacy for the legislature and accepted a position from Mr. Arafat as director of his efforts at "national reconciliation."

Videotape on Market Shows Rabin Killing

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli and international news organizations negotiated Sunday for the rights to broadcast an amateur videotape of the assassination of former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

The videotape, filmed by a 37-year-old Tel Aviv man, shows the confessed assassin, Yigal Amir, shooting Mr. Rabin at point-blank range as he left a Tel Aviv peace rally on Nov. 4.

The negotiations for the broadcast rights were conducted by lawyers for the anonymous cameraman. The asking price reportedly ranged between \$100,000 and three times that amount.

The existence of the videotape was revealed only last week, and the video was shown to the commission investigating the security breakdown that led to Mr. Rabin's death.

"The commercializing of

this is not at all pleasant," said Mordechai Kirschenbaum, the director of Israel Broadcast Authority, which runs the state-owned Channel One television. "But the archival value of this material for the coming years and Israeli history is very high."

Mr. Kirschenbaum said that Channel One had joined forces with an Israeli daily and a foreign news organization in order to meet the sum demanded. A similar competing group organized around Channel One's main rival, Channel Two.

Journalists and the lawyers who viewed the footage said the cameraman had focused on Mr. Amir appearing to hide behind a potted plant with his hands behind his back.

"Anyone who sees the tape sees that the man is suspicious," Yoram Samuel, the attorney who represents the cameraman, said on Israeli radio.



Students praying in Bir Zeit before a rally on the eighth anniversary of the intifada.

Seoul Tries to Defuse Crisis as Roh Goes on Trial

The Associated Press

SEOUL — Roh Tae Woo, the disgraced former president, goes on trial Monday as South Korea struggles to minimize the impact of major political scandals involving past military governments.

Mr. Roh faces corruption charges for taking bribes for a \$650 million slush fund that he established during his 1988-93 term. If convicted, he can be sentenced to 10 years to life in prison.

Mr. Roh's immediate predecessor, Chun Doo Hwan, also is in jail for masterminding a 1979 coup. The prosecution has until

Friday to indict him for military rebellion, which carries the death penalty.

The two former army generals are the ex-presidents to face criminal charges for misdeeds in office. A third former president, Choi Kyu Hah, is being asked to testify in connection with the 1979 coup.

In a move to defuse a political crisis touched off by the scandals, President Kim Young Sam dismissed his prime minister Friday and named an academic with no ties to previous governments to replace him.

Lee Soo Sung, president of state-run Seoul National Uni-

versity, replaced Lee Hong Koo, who had been in the prime minister's job for less than a year.

Mr. Lee's appointment is subject to parliamentary approval, expected by Tuesday at the latest. Presidential officials said a major shuffle of the 24-member cabinet and presidential staff would follow, perhaps early in the week.

Local media, quoting various sources, said the expected shake-up would be extensive and involve key posts.

The shake-up is seen as part of President Kim's preparations for parliamentary elections in April, which are seen as a precursor for presidential balloting in 1997. Mr. Kim's governing party suffered a major setback in local elections last June.

The outgoing prime minister and other cabinet members to be replaced reportedly are being asked to run as government candidates in April.

Mr. Roh will stand trial with 14 aides and businessmen charged with helping him establish the slush fund. The industrialists involved represent a who's who of South Korea's business circles.

Mr. Roh claims that the money came from donations, which

were customary under past governments. But prosecutors say that he swapped money for major setbacks in local elections.

Court officials said security

will be tight for his trial. About 400 police will be deployed outside the courtroom. Activist groups have demonstrated almost daily to demand stern punishment.

Mr. Chun, 64, who was president from 1980 to 1988, continued a hunger strike Sunday for the 15th day to protest what he perceives as political retaliation. He says President Kim reversed a promise not to punish him for the 1979 coup.

Manian village of Sighet in the Carpathians before the arrival of the Nazis, delineating this community's daily rituals and routines in all their vanished ordinariness; and he shows us as well his surreal postwar journey from the horrors of Buchenwald to the glittering streets of liberated Paris, where he would meet writers like Beckett and listen to lectures by Satre and Buber.

Because Wiesel has employed such a wide-angle lens in these pages, we finish "All Rivers" with a profound sense of how an entire community was brutally erased by the Nazis without warning, how abruptly and unthinkingly it became the subject of all of Wiesel's 30-odd books. For

Wiesel, a survivor of two Nazi concentration camps, memory is a tool for insuring that the Holocaust will never be forgotten, a means of stopping "the dead from dying" and speaking "to those who were gone."

Writing, in turn, is a way of turning memory into words and connecting the present to the past: it is also a way to make a protest to God, to ask how God could have remained silent in the face of so much suffering.

Because the Holocaust defies both reason and imagination, because Wiesel believes that it is impossible to communicate the experience to those who did not survive it themselves, there is a dialectical conflict in his work between the need to testify and the futility of all explanation, a tension not unlike that expressed by his friend Samuel Beckett, who ended one of his novels with the words: "You must go on. I can't go on, I'll go on."

In Wiesel's own words, this tension, combined with his didactic impulse to make philosophical points, can result in highly schematic and somewhat heavy-handed storytelling. In nonfiction like "All Rivers," however, it results in forceful and impassioned narratives that possess the subterranean power of a parable, narratives that open out into a commentary on the world, even as they relate the particulars of Wiesel's own life.

Supporters of the program say that since no radioactive material was released, the accident was not serious. But the incident has raised fears in the local community and among citizens groups that bureaucratic interests may end up promoting a dangerous energy technology without enough regard for safety.

Critics emphasize that, unlike most nuclear reactors around the world, the Monju reactor does not use uranium, but the more lethal element plutonium. Plans for such breeder reactors, once supported by many experts, have been dropped by most countries.

Japan says it has developed secure methods to prevent any diversion. But Saburo Watanabe, an architect who lives in the region of the reactor and represents a private citizens group, said: "At a time when the world is withdrawing from the breeder reactor business, Japan is not in a position to say that it is well prepared technologically to pursue it. I think the government will eventually have to shut down the reactor."

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But while "Night" confined itself narrowly to these terrible events, "All Rivers" situates them in a broader context. Wiesel gives us a portrait of his family's life in the small Ro-

Islamic Group In Algeria Kills 2 of Its Leaders

New York Times Service

PARIS — Two top leaders of Algeria's Islamic movement were executed by militants in the movement a month ago, according to the official Algerian press service, APS.

The death of Mohammed Saeed and Abderrazek Redjani by firing squad after a trial conducted by the Armed Islamic Group had been reported earlier in the week by two underground Islamic publications.

Their deaths signaled severe dissension within the Islamic movement that was once united around the goal of bringing down the Algerian government.

The two men had been disassociating themselves from extreme acts of violence by the Armed Islamic Group, which two years ago initiated a wave of killings against civilians.

Mr. Saeed and Mr. Redjani served as senior aides to Abbasi Madani, the jailed leader of the Islamic Salvation Party. After parliamentary elections were canceled by the government in 1992 and the party was outlawed, Mr. Saeed briefly led the opposition until he went under underground along with Mr. Redjani.

Southeast Asia's Becalmed 'Boat People'**40,000 Linger in Camps Despite International Pact**

By Keith B. Richburg
Washington Post Service

HONG KONG — Some 40,000 Vietnamese refugees, "boat people" who fled economic hardship and political repression of the 1980s, still languish in crowded camps here in Hong Kong and scattered around Southeast Asia.

An international agreement was supposed to have all the regional camps cleared and the refugees back home by this year, but repatriation efforts appear to have largely stalled.

Jahanshah Assadi, the Hong Kong representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said another international meeting was scheduled for January, to come up with yet another deadline and search for new solutions.

Hong Kong has its own deadline, since China has repeatedly warned that it wants all the Vietnamese refugees — some 20,000, or half the regional total — out of this colony before Beijing assumes sovereignty here on July 1, 1997.

Hong Kong officials continue to insist that the camps here will be cleared, but the mid-1997 deadline now looks increasingly precarious. This year, Mr. Assadi said, only about 1,600 Vietnamese voluntarily returned home, a huge drop from the 5,600 who volunteered to be repatriated in 1994.

"I think they're suspicious," a Western diplomat said. "They're concerned about getting people they consider subversive.

They may be holding up the international community for more money."

Even if the U.S. plan is approved, refugee officials here say, many of the Vietnamese in the camps may still refuse to budge, since the idea is that all the refugees would return to Ho Chi Minh City before they were interviewed by U.S. immigration officials.

It is also unclear exactly how many might qualify for resettlement if they are rescreened. The Hong Kong government says none, since all the refugees were already screened, and were given the right to appeal, and the UN refugee agency conducted its own separate interviews.

But rights lawyers working with the refugees say the initial interviews were hasty and flawed.

About half the refugees in Hong Kong are from the Northern half of Vietnam, not from the U.S.-backed South, and would be far less likely to have any valid claim of fearing persecution back home.

"The Northerners, I don't think, are under any illusions," Mr. Barnes said. But among the Southerners, he said, those with legitimate grounds to fear persecution potentially includes all of them."

Elsewhere in the region, patience continues to wear thin with the refugees. Malaysia, for example, is said to be planning a forced deportation program to clear its camps of about 5,000 Vietnamese.

By Sheryl WuDunn
New York Times Service

TOKYO — A recent accident at Japan's prototype fast-breeder nuclear reactor is rekindling a fierce debate over whether the government should continue pursuing an energy technology that other countries have abandoned.

No one was hurt in the Dec. 8 accident, in which two to three tons of radioactive material leaked from the reactor's secondary cooling system, and no radioactive materials were discharged.

But critics of the government's policy say the accident reflects shoddy construction and poor safety standards. Criti-

cians groups and some specialists also have said that the accident at the coastal Monju reactor might have been more threatening than the government had indicated.

"The incident is a grave one," said Tokunosuke Nakajima, a professor of nuclear chemistry at Chuo University. "and I cannot wholeheartedly trust an investigation that is conducted by the operators of Monju."

So far, only the Power Reactor & Nuclear Fuel Development Corp., or Doen, which manages the reactor, is investigating. Greenpeace Japan and specialists have called for an independent commission to investigate it and report

directly to Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama.

A company spokesman, who declined to be identified, said the reactor would be shut for at least six months.

Other experts say the reactor, which essentially began operating this summer, could be closed for two years.

Japan says it has developed secure methods to prevent any diversion. But Saburo Watanabe, an architect who lives in the region of the reactor and represents a private citizens group, said: "At a time when the world is withdrawing from the breeder reactor business, Japan is not in a position to say that it is well prepared technologically to pursue it. I think the government will eventually have to shut down the reactor."

But while "Night" confined itself narrowly to these terrible events, "All Rivers" situates them in a broader context. Wiesel gives us a portrait of his family's life in the small Ro-

LANGUAGE**Sticks and Stones, and Obscenity**

By William Safire

WASHINGTON — "Yesterday, the House erupted into partisan shouting," wrote Adam Clymer last month in the Sunday Week in Review section of The New York Times. "After Representative John L. Mica said of Clinton and his shifting views on budget balancing, 'We're here to nail the little bugger down.'"

The Florida Republican was ruled out of order for his choice of a word, and was permitted to resume speaking only after the House voted to let him; then he apologized.

Certainly the word was disrespectful. But in the newspaper account written the same day by Clymer, the offending word had been edited out, although other terms of disrespect — like *swear* and *nerd* — probably would not have been. Evidently there was some concern on the news desk about obscenity, which was resolved a short time later.

Broadcast journalists had the same feeling about using the word. On CNN, Larry King asked Bill Plante of CBS, "Representative John Mica today called Clinton a 'little bugger' — what do you make of that?" Plante said: "There's something wrong with that word, and you don't want to get into it on this broadcast, I think, but they're persistent little *buggers*." The International Herald Tribune ran a piece by Washington Post correspondent Steve Vogel quoting a Himalayan guide as seeming "well suited to solo travel, having been described as a 'grumpy bugger' by a colleague."

None of these usages is obscene. ("None are" would be obscene to purists.) The Oxford English Dictionary Supplement categorizes the word as "coarse slang," but not a vulgarism; the Random House Historical Dictionary of American Slang shows four senses: "a despicable person," "a fellow; person," "thing" and "an undertaking that is difficult." And adds: "The Standard English sense 'sodomite' is no longer commonly understood in the U.S."

In the same way, the slang verb *bugger off* means only "bear it," or "get out of here," or their extension, "don't give me that stuff."

James Joyce used the term in an imperative sense in his novel "Ulysses": "Here *bugger off*, Harry. There's the cops!" This is predominantly a British usage, as is *bugger-all*, meaning "nothing."

As a verb, however, *to bugger* is now, and has been since its coinage from a 1555 noun, plainly obscene. It means "to engage in anal copulation." No ifs or ands. A second sense of the verb is not obscene, with its past participle meaning "cursed, damned" as in "I'll be *buggered*." A third sense, often combined with up, means "confused, dis

CAPITAL MARKETS ON MONDAY

Most Active International Bonds

The 250 most active international bonds traded through the Euroclear system for the week ending Dec. 15. Prices supplied by Telekurs.

Rnk	Name	Cpn	Maturity	Price	Yield	Rnk	Name	Cpn	Maturity	Price	Yield
85	Credit Local	5 1/2	10/18/00	100.5000	5.4700	185	France DAT	B 2/	03/26/00	109.6500	7.7500
86	Germany	7 1/2	02/24/00	99.7500	6.1300	186	France DAT	B 2/	03/26/00	109.6500	7.7500
87	Treuheld	6 1/2	02/24/00	100.7233	5.1700	187	Treuheld 0795 A	5 1/2	11/25/00	122.9975	6.4250
88	Germany	7 1/2	12/20/02	100.7250	6.7700	188	France DAT	B 2/	03/26/00	111.90	7.4000
89	Treuheld	6 1/2	02/24/97	103.4900	6.3100	189	France T.A.N.	5 1/2	03/26/00	109.6200	5.7000
90	Germany	5 1/2	02/24/98	103.4900	5.4400	190	France DAT	5 1/2	04/25/02	122.9000	5.5200
91	Treuheld	5 1/2	02/24/99	103.7200	5.5400	191	France BTAN	7 1/2	04/21/00	106.8000	7.2600
92	Germany	7 1/2	02/24/00	100.7200	6.6100	192	France BTAN	7 1/2	11/29/98	100.5900	5.7000
93	Treuheld	5 1/2	01/14/99	101.7250	4.9100	193	Italy	B 2/	01/01/99	95.1900	8.9300
94	Germany	6 1/2	02/24/97	103.2500	6.4400	194	Italy	B 2/	01/01/99	95.1900	8.9300
95	Germany	5 1/2	02/24/98	103.2500	6.4400	195	France T.A.N.	5 1/2	03/26/00	111.90	7.4000
96	Germany	5 1/2	02/24/99	103.7200	5.5400	196	France DAT	5 1/2	04/25/02	122.9000	5.5200
97	Germany	7 1/2	02/24/00	100.7200	6.6100	197	France BTAN	7 1/2	11/29/98	100.5900	5.7000
98	Germany	5 1/2	01/14/99	101.7250	4.9100	198	Venezuela	7 1/2	04/21/00	106.8000	7.2600
99	Germany	6 1/2	02/24/97	100.7200	6.6100	199	Venezuela	7 1/2	11/29/98	100.5900	5.7000
100	Austria	6 1/2	11/17/05	100.3000	6.4800	200	World Bank	4 1/2	02/26/00	109.6200	7.2600
101	Belgium	6 1/2	03/31/05	98.7000	6.5900	201	World Bank	4 1/2	03/26/00	109.6200	7.2600
102	Belgium	9	07/09/98	110.5300	8.1400	202	World Bank	4 1/2	04/25/02	122.9000	5.5200
103	Belgium	6 1/2	05/25/97	103.7500	6.5100	203	World Bank	4 1/2	05/25/02	109.6200	7.2600
104	British Pound	8 1/2	11/17/03	97.2500	8.4800	204	Quebec	6 1/2	07/27/00	99.1000	2.0200
105	Danish Krone	8	11/1/00	100.1000	5.9900	205	Sweden	3 1/2	08/09/02	107.1822	3.4100
106	Danish Krone	6	12/1/99	100.1000	5.9900	206	Sweden	3 1/2	11/29/98	100.5900	5.7000
107	Danish Krone	7	12/1/98	98.7900	7.0100	207	Sweden	3 1/2	11/29/98	100.5900	5.7000
108	Danish Krone	9	11/1/98	100.3000	8.3100	208	Sweden	3 1/2	11/29/98	100.5900	5.7000
109	Danish Krone	8	05/1/98	100.3000	8.3100	209	Sweden	3 1/2	11/29/98	100.5900	5.7000
110	Danish Krone	7	05/1/98	100.3000	8.3100	210	Sweden	3 1/2	11/29/98	100.5900	5.7000
111	Danish Krone	5 1/2	05/1/98	100.3000	8.3100	211	Sweden	3 1/2	11/29/98	100.5900	5.7000
112	Danish Krone	8	05/1/98	100.3000	8.3100	212	Sweden	3 1/2	11/29/98	100.5900	5.7000
113	Danish Krone	7	05/1/98	100.3000	8.3100	213	Sweden	3 1/2	11/29/98	100.5900	5.7000
114	Danish Krone	6	05/1/98	100.3000	8.3100	214	Sweden	3 1/2	11/29/98	100.5900	5.7000
115	Danish Krone	5 1/2	05/1/98	100.3000	8.3100	215	Sweden	3 1/2	11/29/98	100.5900	5.7000
116	Danish Krone	7	05/1/98	100.3000	8.3100	216	Sweden	3 1/2	11/29/98	100.5900	5.7000
117	Danish Krone	6	05/1/98	100.3000	8.3100	217	Sweden	3 1/2	11/29/98	100.5900	5.7000
118	Danish Krone	5 1/2	05/1/98	100.3000	8.3100	218	Sweden	3 1/2	11/29/98	100.5900	5.7000
119	Danish Krone	7	05/1/98	100.3000	8.3100	219	Sweden	3 1/2	11/29/98	100.5900	5.7000
120	Danish Krone	6	05/1/98	100.3000	8.3100	220	Sweden	3 1/2	11/29/98	100.5900	5.7000
121	Danish Krone	5 1/2	05/1/98	100.3000	8.3100	221	Sweden	3 1/2	11/29/98	100.5900	5.7000
122	Danish Krone	7	05/1/98	100.3000	8.3100	222	Sweden	3 1/2	11/29/98	100.5900	5.7000
123	Danish Krone	6	05/1/98	100.3000	8.3100	223	Sweden	3 1/2	11/29/98	100.5900	5.7000
124	Danish Krone	5 1/2	05/1/98	100.3000	8.3100	224	Sweden	3 1/2	11/29/98	100.5900	5.7000
125	Danish Krone	7	05/1/98	100.3000	8.3100	225	Sweden	3 1/2	11/29/98	100.5900	5.7000
126	Danish Krone	6	05/1/98	100.3000	8.3100	226	Sweden	3 1/2	11/29/98	100.5900	5.7000
127	Danish Krone	5 1/2	05/1/98	100.3000	8.3100	227	Sweden	3 1/2	11/29/98	100.5900	5.7000
128	Danish Krone	7	05/1/98	100.3000	8.3100	228	Sweden	3 1/2	11/29/98	100.5900	5.7000
129	Danish Krone	6	05/1/98	100.3000	8.3100	229	Sweden	3 1/2	11/29/98	100.5900	5.7000
130	Danish Krone	5 1/2	05/1/98	100.3000	8.3100	230	Sweden	3 1/2	11/29/98	100.5900	5.7000
131	Danish Krone	7	05/1/98	100.3000	8.3100	231	Sweden	3 1/2	11/29/98	100.5900	5.7000
132	Danish Krone	6	05/1/98	100.3000	8.3100	232	Sweden	3 1/2	11/29/98	100.5900	5.7000
133	Danish Krone	5 1/2	05/1/98	100.3000	8.3100	233	Sweden	3 1/2	11/29/98	100.5900	5.7000
134	Danish Krone	7	05/1/98	100.3000	8.3100	234	Sweden	3 1/2	11/29/98	100.5900	5.7000
135	Danish Krone	6	05/1/98	100.3000	8.3100	235	Sweden	3 1/2	11/29/98	100.5900	5.7000
136	Danish Krone	5 1/2	05/1/98	100.3000	8.3100	236	Sweden	3 1/2	11/29/98	100.5900	5.7000
137	Danish Krone	7	05/1/98	100.3000	8.3100	237	Sweden	3 1/2	11/29/98	100.5900	5.7000
138	Danish Krone	6	05/1/98	100.3000	8.3100	238	Sweden	3 1/2	11/29/98	100.5900	5.7000
139	Danish Krone	5 1/2	05/1/98	100.3000	8.3100	239	Sweden	3 1/2	11/29/98	100.5900	5.7000
140	Danish Krone	7	05/1/98	100.3000	8.3100	240	Sweden	3 1/2	11/29/98	100.5900	5.7000
141	Danish Krone	6	05/1/98	100.3000	8.3100	241	Sweden	3 1/2	11/29/98	100.5900	5.7000
142	Danish Krone	5 1/2	05/1/98								

Herald Tribune
BUSINESS / FINANCE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1995

E 3

CYBERSCAPE

Stock Gains Come To Those Who Wait

By Reed Abelson
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Now that Internet stocks such as Netscape Communications Corp. have taken off into the stratosphere, it might seem that the big shots who got early have made the instant fortunes, leaving small investors in the dust.

Odds are, however, it is not too late to invest in the Internet, and it might even be far too early.

When the automobile business was born a century ago, investors had a choice of hundreds of manufacturers. But a David L. Lewis, professor of business history at the University of Michigan, points out, for every auto company that became a giant, "there were a couple of hundred that did not make it, and people lost a substantial amount of money." While you might have bought stock in General Motors, you could just as easily have picked the United States Motor Corp., which failed in 1911.

With the Internet in its infancy, you would have to be clairvoyant to pick the GM of cybersstocks — but many are tempted to try.

"I wish I could have gotten Netscape when it was lower," signed Sune Bell of Houston, who, like most small investors, could not get the shares at their initial price of \$28 in August. Leery of paying two or three times that price in the first few days of trading, Ms. Bell passed up the stock, only to watch it rise to a high of \$174 before slipping back recently to \$130.50.

Forrester Research estimates that the overall Internet market will explode from about \$300 million today to \$10 billion by the year 2000. While investors may no longer be able to benefit from the gravity-defying run-ups of the first crop of new Internet issues, there will be plenty of chances to get in, analysts say.

"The central fear people have is they've missed out," said Roger B. McNamee of Integral Capital Partners, a Palo Alto, California, venture capital company. But as the Internet develops, he said, investors will be in a much better position to choose the issues that have the highest odds of paying off. If investors discount the current hype and wait for the inevitable shakeout, they will probably get another chance to buy many of today's hot stocks at lower prices.

He added that the growth of the market would bring the development of new ways to invest in Internet companies. Options, for example, do not yet exist for Netscape and other hot stocks, making concentrated bets difficult. "It's just coming off the runway here," said Bryant R. Wien, an investment strategist

It's not too late for small investors to pick big winners.

See LATE, Page 12

Corporate America's Teen Spirit Advertisers Target Younger and More Savvy Shoppers

By Anthony Faiola
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — A saleswoman approaches, and Beth Krizek, 16, turns to her friends with a grin that says watch and learn.

At a cosmetics counter, the high school junior studies a tube of lipstick as the saleswoman begins to suggest other complementary products.

But Beth, a veteran of such product pitches, remains a study in cool resistance. She demands free samples of the lipstick and a skin cream, but buys nothing. "I'll try them out," she quips, escaping with her samples, "and let you know what I think."

A tough sell. That's Beth Krizek, a teenager whose astute buying instincts and ability to see past sales pitches illustrate an important evolution in consumerism among today's youth. Teenagers are becoming increasingly savvy consumers at ever younger ages.

With Beth's generation making up the most economically powerful group of

teenagers since the baby boomers came of age, it is an evolution that is forcing U.S. advertisers to change, too.

A critical challenge facing advertisers is capturing teenagers' attention. Like the latest generation of a computer chip, teenagers are processing information at greater speeds, and corporate America is discovering that slowing them down long enough to pitch a product requires far greater entertainment in ads, quicker messages and greater facility, along with more graphic content. Why? Because this generation was weaned on fast-paced images through electronic games and music videos that became more spectacular, more graphically enhanced every year.

"It's when you do capture their attention that you have to be even more careful," said Peter Zollo, co-founder of Teenage Research Corp. "If you approach them in an insincere way, they'll see right through it. These kids are no body's fool."

Today's teenagers are shrewder, more price-oriented shoppers than their parents or older brothers and sisters, marketing

analysts say. Lifestyle shifts, such as the rise in single-family households and dual-career families, have forced U.S. teenagers to take greater responsibilities in making purchasing decisions.

But this market savvy is also a byproduct of greater exposure to advertising — the targets for which have become ever younger.

Collectively, teenagers buy almost \$100 billion a year in apparel, athletic footwear, electronic entertainment, music, fast food and more. One study showed that 50 percent of teenagers spent an average of 2.7 hours a week at a mall, though often they are just hanging out and not shopping.

Still, in many product categories, teenagers outspend older consumers. They spend 9 percent more on soft drinks than the average consumer, and buy one of every four compact disks and pre-recorded music cassettes sold.

Teenagers' purchasing power will only bloom. Over the next two decades, Census Bureau data indicate teenagers will become the biggest force in U.S. consumerism since the boomers.

BP Says Algerian Gas Pact 'Very Close'

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — British Petroleum PLC said Sunday it was "very close" to concluding a \$3.5 billion natural gas agreement with Algeria's state-owned oil company, Sonatrach, after two years of talks.

BP, which signed a preliminary pact in 1993, has agreed to a production and marketing arrangement that would tap huge gas reserves in southern Algeria for export to Spain and Italy by 2002, according to sources familiar with the deal. An agreement could be signed within the

next two weeks, they said.

If completed as expected, the agreement would give BP a stake in one of the world's largest gas provinces and a piece of the marketing profits for gas sold to southern Europe, where demand for the fuel is expected to rise 25 percent in the next decade.

Ian Stewart, a BP spokesman, said Sunday the company was "very close to signing an agreement with Sonatrach for work in the Sahara desert." He declined further comment.

The agreement covers a bar-

ren, rocky desert area 1,200 miles (1,920 kilometers) south of Algiers. The region, called In Salah, has an estimated 280 billion cubic meters (1.93 trillion cubic feet) of gas reserves.

Sonatrach and BP expect eventually to pump about 10 billion cubic meters of gas a year if a \$100 million appraisal by BP shows the project can be developed as expected, the sources said. BP produced about 13 billion cubic feet (1.12 billion cubic meters) of gas worldwide last year.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

Lottery Probe in Britain

BRITAIN'S Public Accounts Committee is questioning the national lottery regulator, Peter Davis, about his ties with GTech Corp., a U.S. company that holds 25 percent of the British lottery operator Camelot, Bloomberg News reported.

The development comes less than a week after Richard Branion, chairman of Virgin Group PLC, accused GTech of trying to bribe him to drop his bid for the lottery. GTech and Camelot have denied the allegations.

For Tie Manufacturers, Holiday Season Means Annual Battle of Sexes

By James Hansen
Special to the Herald Tribune

MILAN — If you are an adult male, you are probably going to get a tie for Christmas. Around the world, from Japan to Europe to North America, about a third of all men's ties are sold in the month of December each year.

Odds are, a woman will give it to you. Roughly 40 percent of all men's ties are purchased by women, and the tie industry believes that 55 percent to 60 percent of all neckwear purchases are made by women — whoever is paying.

Unfortunately, there is a good chance she will pick out something you do not like. The other thing the industry believes is that, of ties purchased for men by women, more than a third are worn exactly once.

"We call those 'drawer ties,'" said Luciano Donatelli, managing director of Orsini, the tie-making subsidiary of Italy's Zegna textiles group. "They are worn just once, to show the gift is appreciated, before disappearing into permanent storage."

Men are unabashedly fussy about what they wear around their necks. James Joyce's reply to the painter Patrick Tuohy, who told the Irish writer he was going to capture his soul in a portrait, says it all: "Never mind about my soul, just make sure you get my tie right."

Orsini is the world's largest manufacturer of expensive men's ties, those retailing for \$70 and up. There are only a handful of big players in this market, worth an estimated 18 million ties a year, though there are a great many labels. The Zegna subsidiary makes 14 of them, including Givenchy, Les Copaines, Dunhill, Romeo Gigli, Valentino and Karl Lagerfeld.

Orsini will sell roughly 2.8 million luxury ties in 1995, about 16 percent of a highly fragmented market with many small producers. The only comparable competitor is Mantova, another Italian company whose neckwear appears as Ferre, Yves St. Laurent, Hugo Boss, Ungaro and others.

The second echelon, at least in terms of volume, consists of names like Hermès, Giorgio Armani and Gianni Versace. Each is good for about 1 million ties a year.

The American satirist S. J. Perelman joked years ago about the social need of Western man to dress for the evening in the "black-tailed tails of a sheep." Top hats and tails may have practically vanished, but the

silk tie — made, after all, of the spit of an Asian insect — is still obligatory.

In spite of the occasional French or German designer name, "one way or the other luxury ties are an Italian business," Mr. Donatelli said. "Even when we don't make them directly, we supply them to the fabric."

That fabric is still silk, either in its pure form or with another fiber, like wool or cashmere, woven in to create a particular textual effect. Polyester has made no inroads whatsoever at the high end of the tie market.

Neither has the trend toward more casual office wear. In fact, production and sales are reported to be up at all levels of the business, and even the managerial fad of "dress-down" Fridays in Japan and North America has acted as a stimulus for the market. "It has created a new niche, 'Friday wear,' that has brought the ascot back from oblivion," Mr. Donatelli said.

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Now the Hard Part: Getting Euro-phobic

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BONN — The German government and commercial banks plan a sweeping marketing campaign to sway a public on the idea of giving up the Deutsche mark for a common currency called the Euro.

"The facts speak in favor of monetary union," said Karl-Heinz Wessel, president of the Federation of German Banks. "That's what we want to get across. This is the only way to ease the concerns and reservations of citizens."

But while Germany and other European countries begin to tackle the logistics of phasing in a common currency, economists said they were not moving fast enough to ensure that monetary union goes online in time in 1999.

"Markets generally still see 1999 as unlikely, but equally assume all political-

speaking will reaffirm it as the start date," said Alison Cottrell, an economist at PaineWebber International in London. "So all of that is water off a duck's back."

European leaders on Friday put aside months of bickering by agreeing to call a single European Union currency the Euro and by deciding on a timetable to introduce it in stages between 1999 and 2002.

Even staunch advocates of monetary union agree that there are flaws in the single currency's architecture, and they worry that it could become unglued in the event of a crisis.

"It steadily becomes apparent that the Madrid decisions were flawed, then investors are likely to become increasingly nervous about the economic and political consequences of the whole project," said

Graham Bishop, European affairs adviser at Salomon Brothers in London.

A further worry comes from the future relationship between countries forming a single currency and those residing outside. Clearly, not all of the 15 EU members will join the new currency club either because they do not meet the economic criteria laid out in the Maastricht treaty or because they simply do not want to.

Prime Minister John Major of Britain ruled out having an exchange-rate mechanism between currencies that remained outside the single monetary unit.

He said there was a danger currencies outside the system could lose value and that these states would demand more money from the richer states to finance unemployment and other structural changes.

"And there's no money for that."

(Reuters, Bloomberg, NYT)

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MUTUAL FUNDS

Close of trading Friday, Dec. 15

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(Continued From Page 6)

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Asian Companies Thirst for Capital

Agence France-Presse

SINGAPORE — New shares valued at about \$41 billion are expected to be listed on Asian stock markets in 1996, indicating the region's growing appetite for capital, a study released here Sunday said.

About \$36 billion was raised this year, according to equity research carried out by Salomon Brothers Inc. on eight Asian stock markets.

The potential primary share issues in 1996 are equivalent to about 3.3 percent of market capitalization of stock markets in Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, South Korea and Taiwan.

"The actual figure attained next year will clearly be a function of market conditions,

but the key point is that there still is a strong demand for new capital within the region," the American investment house said.

The capital is required to fund corporate expansion and privatization, notably in infrastructure-related areas, it said.

New share-issue milestones next year include more issues of so-called H shares — shares of Chinese companies listed in Hong Kong — and the floating of Singapore Power, Korea Telecom and several large privatizations in Indonesia in sectors such as steel, power and banking.

South Korean companies are expected to lead the call for capital by issuing \$11 billion in new shares, followed by Indonesia with \$8 billion.

Elsewhere in Asia, new share issues are

expected to hit \$4.8 billion in Malaysia, \$4.5 billion in Thailand, \$4 billion in Hong Kong and Taiwan and \$2.5 billion in Singapore and the Philippines.

Salomon Brothers warned that a strong appetite for capital on the back of poor regional market performance over the past two years pointed to "continuing pressure on the pricing and size of new issues."

It said that companies should find a receptive investment audience if their fundamentals were viewed favorably and were attractively priced, among other factors.

In a separate study, Salomon Brothers said it did not expect interest rates in the Philippines, Malaysia and Thailand to drop in the first half of 1996 because their economies were overheating.

The Week Ahead: World Economic Calendar, Dec. 18-22

A schedule of the week's economic and financial events, compiled for the International Herald Tribune by Bloomberg Business News.

Asia-Pacific

Expected Canberra: Australian Treasurer Ralph Willis issues midyear review of government budget forecasts.

New Delhi: Tex India, an exhibition of Indian textile products organized by India Trade Promotion Council Organization. Dec. 22 - Dec. 31.

Singapore: November retail sales figures; November consumer price index.

Monday Dec. 18 Sydney: October price indexes for manufacturing materials; October import price index data.

Tokyo: Ministry of Finance releases November trade balance; Vice Finance Minister Kyousuke Shinozawa holds regularly scheduled press conference.

Tuesday Dec. 19 Sydney: November merchandise imports data.

Tokyo: Cabinet ministers hold news conference; Economic Planning Agency releases October household spending survey; Bank of Japan releases November money supply.

Wednesday Dec. 20 Sydney: Reserve Bank of Australia November bulletin released; Westpac Melbourne Institute Leading Index for October released.

Taipei: Ministry of Economic Affairs releases November export orders figures and industrial production index.

Thursday Dec. 21 Melbourne: November new motor vehicle registrations figures released.

Tokyo: Vice Finance Minister Kyousuke Shinozawa holds press conference.

Wellington: November housing permit figures released; overseas trade.

Friday Dec. 22 Tokyo: Cabinet ministers hold news conference; Matsunoto Kenko Co. lists its shares on Japan's over-the-counter stock exchange.

Europe

Frankfurt: German November M3 money supply.

Madrid: Finance Ministry publishes November budget deficit figures; Bank of Spain publishes Spain's current account balance figures for October.

Zurich: Start of Elektrowatt AG's public offer period for shares of Landis & Gyr AG

London: November Public-Sector Borrowing Requirement.

Madrid: October producer prices.

Rome: October industrial production.

September industrial orders released.

Voorburg, Netherlands: October industrial sales.

Mexico City: October unemployment figures; October retail sales.

Madrid: October producer prices.

Ottawa: October manufacturing report.

Washington: The U.S. Agriculture Department's weekly report on planting progress for seven crops; Treasury Department holds bill auction.

New York: Johnson Redbook research service's weekly survey of total sales at more than 20 U.S. department, discount and chain stores.

Washington: Federal Open Market Committee meets; final third-quarter gross domestic product figures.

London: M4 November provisional estimates; November balance of trade with non-EU countries.

Madrid: Third-quarter economic growth.

Paris: October industrial production.

Stockholm: October retail sales data.

Ottawa: October trade and retail trade report.

Washington: October merchandise trade; trade deficit in goods and services for October; Mortgage Bankers Association of America releases weekly report on mortgage applications.

Washington: Initial weekly state unemployment compensation insurance claims; Federal Reserve reports weekly money supply; Treasury Department releases November budget statement; personal income and spending for October.

London: Third-quarter gross domestic product and balance of payments.

Paris: November and third-quarter wages; Bank of France monetary policy council meets.

Washington: Federal Reserve releases minutes from its Nov. 15 policy-setting session; Federal Reserve releases report on commercial and industrial loans at commercial banks.

Ottawa: October gross domestic product report.

London: Revised third-quarter capital expenditure.

Paris: October trade balance; final November consumer price index.

Voorburg, Netherlands: December consumer confidence and November producer confidence figures.

Washington: Federal Reserve releases minutes from its Nov. 15 policy-setting session; Federal Reserve releases report on commercial and industrial loans at commercial banks.

Ottawa: October gross domestic product report.

Americas

Bogota: Cemex SA de CV and Cementos Argos SA bid for control of Cementos Paz del Rio SA. From Dec. 20 to Dec. 21.

Santiago: Banking superintendent releases statistics on bank loan portfolios and profits; Central bank releases November trade statistics and October indicator of economic activity.

Mexico City: October unemployment figures; October retail sales.

Ottawa: October manufacturing report.

Washington: The U.S. Agriculture Department's weekly report on planting progress for seven crops; Treasury Department holds bill auction.

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NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Consolidated trading for week ended Friday, Dec. 15

INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1995

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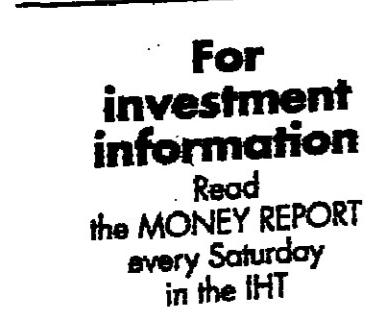
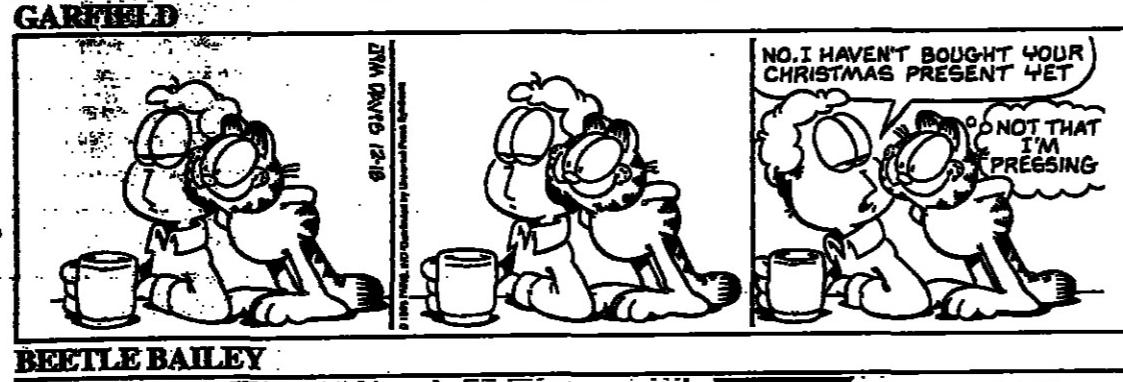
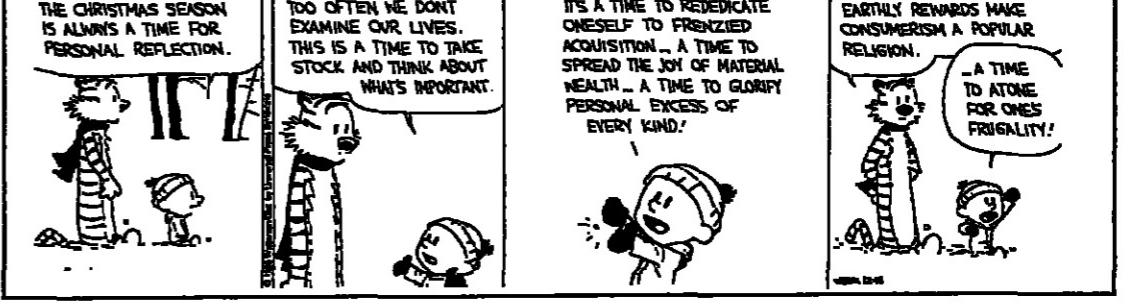
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SPORTS

The Shaq May Be Back, But Magic Now Knows: Penny's From Heaven

By Jennifer Frey
Washington Post Service

ORLANDO, Florida — Afternoon "Penny" Hardaway stayed in the Orlando Magic locker room long after the team's shoot-around ended on Friday morning, watching as the big guy — Shaquille O'Neal — emerged into the outer hallway, where cameras, microphones and note pads were poised for a few words of wisdom regarding Shaq's long-anticipated comeback.

The appearance of Shaq, huge at 332 pounds (150 kilograms), his body appropriately draped in a "Big Dawg" T-shirt, caused a commotion in Orlando Arena, an entourage recording his every facial expression as he barreled his way to the players' parking lot.

A few minutes later, Hardaway slipped quietly from the locker room and peered around, almost relieved, at the nearly-empty hall. Look closely enough, and you could have seen a small smile on his face.

After six weeks of carrying the Magic, Hardaway is more than happy to return the burden to O'Neal, who returned from a thumb injury to reclaim his team and his city on Friday night. The city was easy: The sellout crowd stood and cheered its welcome. Shaq's mere presence lending electricity to the night. The team, though, may not be so easy. Something happened during those six weeks Shaq spent in convalescence. The Magic became Hardaway's team.

How did it happen? Well, maybe it was easy to overlook Hardaway's exceptional talents when he shared the floor with Shaq, a player who — by mere size alone — tends to capture the attention of all things living.

The Magic said then that

the moment he gets near a basketball. And maybe Hardaway simply blossomed during the first six weeks of this, his third NBA season, a time frame that happened to coincide with Shaq's absence from the court.

Whatever the reason — and most Magic observers attribute it to a little of both — Hardaway has left a lasting impression, his scoring average (25.9) fourth in the league and the Magic's stunning Shaqless record (17-5) attributed in large part to Hardaway.

"I don't think I became the big man while he was gone," Hardaway said, with his usual modesty. "I think a lot of people just started noticing me, because he was gone and my points were going up. I think the combination — my average going up and the team winning the way we were — just made a lot more people notice me."

Hardaway is shy, sometimes painfully awkward around strangers, and he has a tough time talking about himself. Still, his history has been well-documented: the mother, Fae Patterson, who left him in first grade to pursue a career as a lounge singer; the tough but loving grandmother, Louise Hardaway, who took him into her three-room house at 2977 Forest Street in Memphis, Tennessee, a dead-end street in a dead-end part of town; the thugs who ran his neighborhood and once robbed him — giving him a bullet wound in the process — a few blocks from his house; the academic troubles that caused embarrassing problems when he arrived at the University of Memphis; the mega-trade between the Golden State Warriors and Orlando that made him a Magic rookie in 1993.

The Magic said then that

"(Shaq's) going to adjust to Penny being in the post, running the team a little differently now," said Horace Grant, the Magic's power forward. "It might take a little while."

The Magic ran only a few plays designed for O'Neal Friday night, yet Shaq still managed to score 26 points in 24 minutes. Hardaway had a mere 16, well below his average, but he also had 11 assists, and it's no coincidence that — with Hardaway running the plays — four Magic players finished the game in double-digits.



The Magic's Shaquille O'Neal returned to action Friday night, broken thumb healed. Steve Sander/AP

aged to score 26 points in 24 minutes. Hardaway had a mere 16, well below his average, but he also had 11 assists, and it's no coincidence that — with Hardaway running the plays — four Magic players finished the game in double-digits.

Maybe Hardaway's average will slip now that Shaq is back, and maybe all the hype and excitement will lessen as well. The lesson, though, has been learned. With Penny around, the Magic survived without Shaq's thunderous dunks and

intimidating inside presence. Could the Magic — with or without Shaq — survive without Penny?

"Take it from me," Koncak said, when asked that question. "That is something we really don't want to find out about."

Bulls Are Hurting, But Still Winning

The Associated Press

Michael Jordan winced in pain on the Chicago Bulls bench, his dislocated right index finger soaking in a cup of ice water. Sitting beside him was Dennis Rodman, whose aching calves were being massaged by a therapist.

It was Scottie Pippen time.

"When Michael hurt his finger, we knew there was going to

NBA ROUNDUP

be a change in our offense," said the Bulls' coach, Phil Jackson, after Pippen's 33 points, 13 rebounds and six assists paced the Bulls to a 108-88 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers Saturday night in Chicago. "Scottie took it upon himself to be more aggressive."

With the finger on his shooting hand bandaged from the second quarter on, Jordan scored 20 points but was only five-for-20 from the floor. Rodman, despite his injury, grabbed 15 rebounds as the Bulls earned their ninth consecutive victory and improved their NBA-best record to 19-2. They are 10-0 at home.

Cedric Ceballos scored 27 points for the Lakers.

Toni Kukoc scored 22 points for Chicago, which also played without backup center Bill Wennington (back spasms).

Jordan was concerned about his finger problem, which first surfaced a month ago. "I haven't been able to get rid of the swelling," said Jordan, who is looking to lead the league in scoring for the eighth time. "I'm pretty sure it's going to be like this all season."

Newark 122, Kings 108 In San Antonio, Sean Elliott scored 31 points and David Robinson added 30 and grabbed 11 rebounds. Mitch Richmond led the Kings with 23 points and Tyus Edney added 20.

Suns 111, Mavericks 108 In Dallas, Charles Barkley scored 31 points and David Robinson added 30 and grabbed 11 rebounds. Mitch Richmond led the Kings with 23 points and Tyus Edney added 20.

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Barley scored 29 points and grabbed 11 rebounds as Phoenix won its 14th straight over Dallas.

Warriors 116, Grizzlies 111 A night after stopping their 19-game losing streak — a record for an expansion team — Vancouver was routed at home.

Latrell Sprewell scored 22 points, grabbed seven rebounds and dished off eight assists to lead Golden State.

Hornets 108, Clippers 99 Glen Rice scored 31 points to lead Charlotte to victory in Los Angeles. Larry Johnson scored 20 points and Scott Barnell added 18 for the Hornets.

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SPORTS

Victory Over Dolphins Gives Comeback Bills the AFC East

The Associated Press

The Miami Dolphins, who spent millions on players they hoped would take them to the Super Bowl, might have done better with David White.

Yes, David White, a linebacker cut three times since his rookie year in 1993, White combined with Thurman Thomas to give the Bills a 23-20 victory over the Dolphins on Sunday that gave Buffalo its sixth AFC East title in eight years and left the Dolphins in deep trouble.

For Buffalo (10-5), the AFC's Super Bowl representative from 1990 to 1993, the victory capped a comeback from a 7-9 season last year. Miami (8-7), now needs help to make the playoffs in a year it was shooting for the Super Bowl and, perhaps, secure the job of Don Shula, the winningest coach in NFL history.

Miami had come back from a 10-point halftime deficit to tie the game at 13, then tied it again 20-20 early in the fourth quarter. But on a first down at the Miami 9-yard line, Dolphins quarterback Dan Marino tried to find Irving Fryar. White, cut by both the Bills and Patriots since 1993 and a starter only because of injuries, leaped, pulled the ball down, and returned it 8 yards to the 11.

Three plays later, Steve Christie kicked his third field goal of the day with 6:11 left for a lead that held up in a finale marked by a fight between Bryan Cox of Miami and Buffalo's Carwell Gardner.

Rams 33, Rams 22 The Washington Redskins looked a lot like the early-season St. Louis Rams.

Tom Carter and Tony Woods scored defensive touchdowns in a 35-23 victory Sunday that all but killed the Rams' playoff hopes. The Rams (7-8) have lost eight of their last 11, the last four by a combined score of 152-69.

Mistakes overshadowed a second-consecutive 300-yard passing game from Mark Rypien, who was 34-of-50 for 340 yards, and negated the Rams' advantage in total yards, 434-254.

The Redskins (5-10) won for only the second time in seven games, although the other victory in that span was over Dallas.

Browns 26, Bengals 10 It was the most bittersweet victory in the Cleveland Browns' 50 years in Cleveland Stadium, because it may well have been their last.

The Browns beat the Cincinnati Bengals 26-10 Sunday before 55,875 rowdy fans who were unsure if they'd ever get to watch an NFL game in Cleveland again. The Browns (5-10) close their season at Jacksonville next week, and the team owner, Art Modell, plans to move the franchise to Baltimore next year.

Although there were about 12,000 unsold tickets and nearly 11,000 no-shows, the "Dawg Pound" bleachers at the east end of the stadium were packed until the end. Fans there ripped up some of the long bench seats and tossed them toward the field late in the game.

The victory ended the Browns' six-game losing streak, which began the week news of the move broke. It also finished off the Bengals' last playoff hopes; even with a victory, Cincinnati (6-9) would have been a long shot to capture a wild-card spot.

Vinny Testaverde, listed as questionable because of a sore hip, started for Cleveland and passed for 241 yards and two touchdowns. Matt Stover, who last week surpassed Nick Lowery as the most accurate kicker in NFL history, added four field

goals for a team-record total of 29 this year.

Eagles 21, Cardinals 20 The Philadelphia Eagles showed their former coach, Buddy Ryan, that their tough defense didn't leave when he did.

The Eagles defense forced five second-half turnovers and limited the Cardinals to field goals to earn a home playoff game with a 21-20 comeback victory over Arizona on Sunday.

Rodney Peete's 37-yard touchdown pass to Calvin Williams in the fourth quarter helped Philadelphia (10-5) overcome a 17-point deficit.

Bears 31, Buccaneers 10 The Chicago Bears kept their playoff hopes alive and killed Tampa Bay's postseason chances.

Rashaan Salaam rushed for a career-high 134 yards and three touchdowns as the Bears beat the Buccaneers 31-10 Sunday.

The Bears (8-7), who won for only the second time in seven games after a 6-2 start, remained a postseason hope with a 21-17 victory over Atlanta.

Chicago would qualify for the playoffs if it beats Philadelphia at Soldier Field next week and Atlanta fails to San Francisco or Minnesota loses one of its final two games, against San Francisco and Cincinnati.

Tampa Bay (7-8), which buoyed its playoff hopes with a victory over Green Bay last week, couldn't survive Trent Dilfer's four turnovers Sunday.

Panthers 21, Falcons 17 The longest play in the Carolina Panthers' history produced the biggest comeback yet.

Kerry Collins linked up with Willie Green on an 89-yard touchdown pass with 7:06 remaining Sunday, completing the Panthers' comeback from a two-touchdown deficit and giving them a 21-17 victory over the Atlanta Falcons.

Carolina (7-8) turned away a fourth-and-goal play with 67 seconds left and severely damaged Atlanta's postseason hopes.

The Falcons (8-7) face the unlikely prospect of having to defeat San Francisco in their season finale if they are to have any chance of making the playoffs. Atlanta has

lost its last three games to the 49ers by a combined 106 points.

Carolina, already assured of finishing as the winningest expansion team in NFL history, erased deficits of 14-0 and 17-7 on the way to winning for the fifth time in eight games at Clemson's Memorial Stadium—the Panthers' first-year home away from home.

Lions 44, Jaguars 20 The Detroit Lions know how to finish fast. Rarely have they been this powerful.

Barry Sanders ran for two touchdowns, Scott Mitchell passed for two more and the high-flying Lions breezed to a 44-0 rout over the Jacksonville Jaguars on Sunday.

The Lions (9-6), who extended their winning streak to six games, have scored 196 points in their last six games and remain in strong contention for a playoff berth. If Minnesota loses Monday night at San Francisco, the Lions will make the playoffs for the fourth time in five seasons.

Oilers 22, Jets 6 Steve McNair made his first NFL start and threw a 35-yard touchdown pass, leading the Houston Oilers to a drab 23-6 victory over the New York Jets on Sunday.

McNair's touchdowm pass to Haywood Jeffires with 38 seconds left in the first quarter and a 53-yard pass play to Chris Sanders in the fourth quarter that set up a touchdown drew cheers from a crowd of 35,872.

Al Del Greco kicked field goals of 49, 53 and 24 yards as the Oilers (6-9) played what likely was their final game in the Astrodome before moving to Tennessee. The Oilers' lease runs through the 1997 season, but Adams is expected to buy out the remaining portion and complete the move to Tennessee next season.

Packers 34, Saints 28 Brett Favre threw for 308 yards and four touchdowns as the Packers qualified for the NFL playoffs for a third straight year by beating the Saints on Saturday.

The victory also positioned the Packers (10-5) to clinch their first NFC Central championship since 1972.

Reggie White, the NFL's career leader with 157 sacks, had been expected to miss the rest of the year with an injured left hamstring. But he entered the game on the Packers' third defensive play.

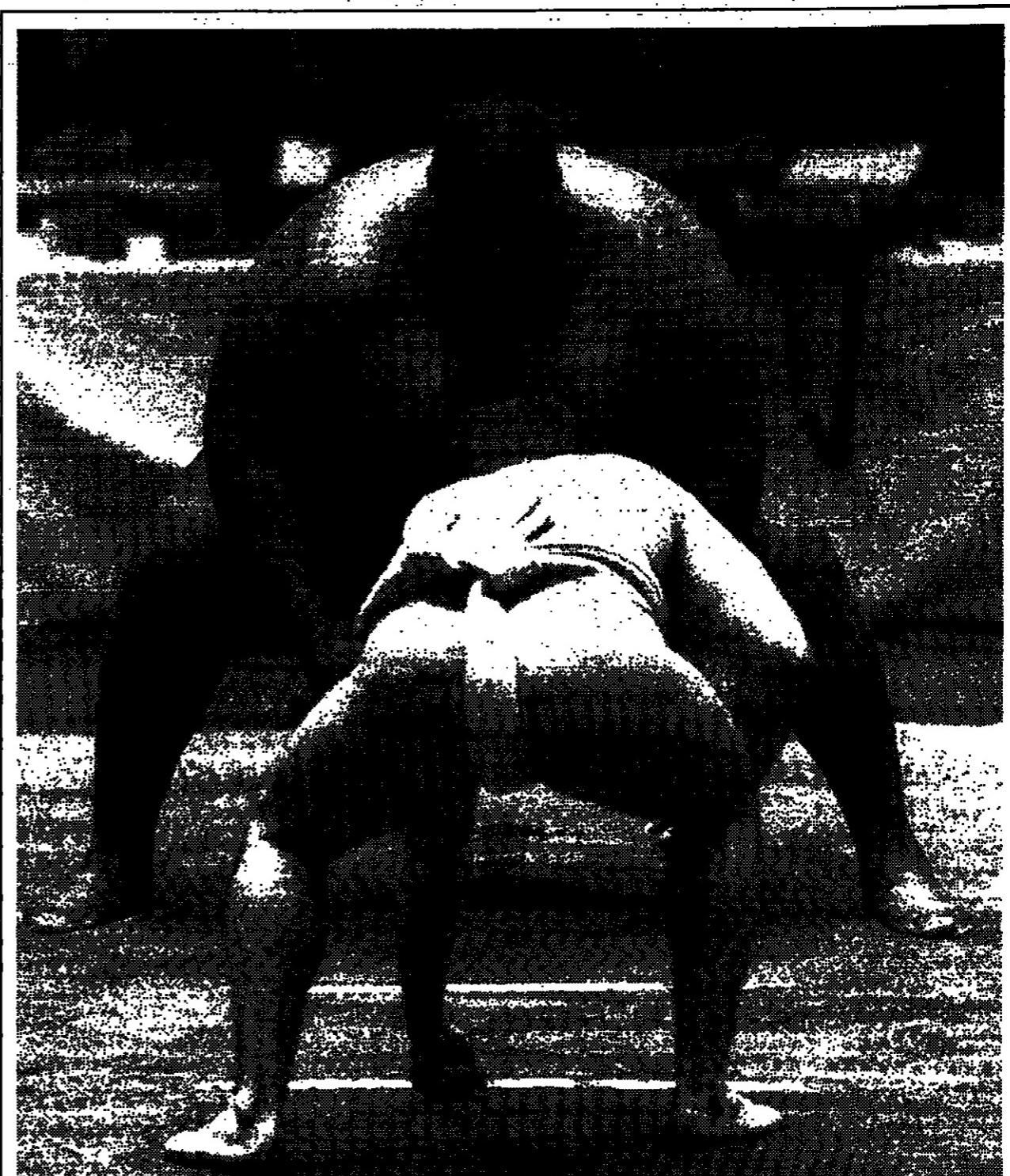
Favre, who completed the first six passes he threw, advanced his claim for the NFL's MVP award by completing 12 of 18 passes for 203 yards and four touchdowns in the move to Tennessee next season.

The victory also positioned the Packers (10-5) to clinch their first NFC Central championship since 1972.

The Kings, who have five wins and a tie against the Leafs in their last six meetings at the L.A. Forum, went nearly eight minutes before their first shot on goal and spotted Toronto a 3-0 lead on first-period power-play goals by Mike Gartner, Messimo and Paul DiPietro.

Wayne Gretzky set up goals by Eric Lacroix, Darrin Kristich and Marty McSorley for the Kings.

Capitals 3, Rangers 2 The New York Rangers lost their second game in two nights on Saturday following a 10-game unbeaten streak, losing to the Washington



WEIGHT ADVANTAGE: 300-kilogram (660-pound) Emanuel Yarbrough of the United States prepares for attack against Fabrice Guenet of France at the amateur sumo world championships Sunday in Tokyo. Yarbrough won.

Gretzky Not Enough for Kings, as Leafs Romp

The Associated Press

Sergio Momesso ended a six-week scoring drought with two goals and Felix Potvin made a season-high 44 saves as the Toronto Maple Leafs beat the Los Angeles Kings, 6-3, for their third straight road

The Kings, who have five wins and a tie against the Leafs in their last six meetings at the L.A. Forum, went nearly eight minutes before their first shot on goal and spotted Toronto a 3-0 lead on first-period power-play goals by Mike Gartner, Messimo and Paul DiPietro.

Wayne Gretzky set up goals by Eric Lacroix, Darrin Kristich and Marty McSorley for the Kings.

Capitals 3, Rangers 2 The New York Rangers lost their second game in two nights on Saturday following a 10-game unbeaten streak, losing to the Washington

2-0 in their last 12 games.

Bruins 6, Flames 3 Dave Reid scored three goals and Jozef Stumpel added a goal and two assists as the Boston Bruins defeated Calgary to end the Flames' three-game unbeaten streak.

Islanders 3, Whalers 3 In New York, Wendel Clark scored with 16.9 seconds left in regulation as the New York Islanders tied the Hartford Whalers.

For the second straight night, Brendan Shanahan scored twice for the Whalers.

Panthers 7, Lightning 2 Rob Niedermayer, Jody Hull and Jesse Belanger scored power-play goals as the league-leading Florida Panthers beat the Tampa Bay Lightning 7-2.

Blues 3, Sharks 2 Brett Hull, recently troubled by the flu, came back to score two goals and lead the St. Louis Blues to victory over the San Jose Sharks.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE		
Team	W	L
Orlando	18	6
New York	17	7
Atlanta	12	12
Boston	11	13
Washington	10	10
New Jersey	9	11
Philadelphia	3	17
CENTRAL DIVISION		
Chicago	19	2
Indiana	11	9
Milwaukee	11	12
Charlotte	11	12
Orlando	9	12
Detroit	9	13
Milwaukee	6	13
Toronto	7	17
WESTERN CONFERENCE		
Houston	17	6
Utah	15	7
San Antonio	11	11
Denver	10	11
Dallas	7	14
Vancouver	6	13
NORTHWEST DIVISION		
Seattle	15	7
Portland	11	12
Los Angeles	11	12
Oklahoma City	10	13
PACIFIC DIVISION		
Houston	17	6
Utah	15	7
San Antonio	11	11
Phoenix	9	11
Golden State	8	14
L.A. Clippers	7	15
SIXTH DIVISION		
Seattle	21	13
Portland	19	14
Los Angeles	11	14
Oklahoma City	10	15
SEVENTH DIVISION		
Houston	17	12
Utah	15	12
San Antonio	11	12
Phoenix	9	12
Golden State	8	13
L.A. Clippers	7	14
EIGHTH DIVISION		
Seattle	21	13
Portland	19	14
Los Angeles	11	14
Oklahoma City	10	15
NBA TOTALS		
West	123	111
East	123	111

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Team	W	L	T	Pct.
Orlando	18	6	0	.750
New York	17	7	1	.670
Atlanta	12	12	0	.500
Boston	11	13	0	.460
Washington	10	10	0	.500
New Jersey	9	11	0	.450
Philadelphia	3	17	0	.150
CENTRAL DIVISION				
Chicago	19	2	0	.950
Indiana	11	9	0	.526
Milwaukee	11	12	0	.480
Charlotte	11	12	0	.480
Orlando	9	12	0	.450
Detroit	9	13	0	.430
Milwaukee	6	13	0	.300
WESTERN DIVISION				
Houston	17	12	0	.583
Utah	15	7	0	.643
San Antonio	11	11	0	.500
Phoenix	9	12	0	.460
Golden State	8	14	0	.400
L.A. Clippers	7	15	0	.333
NATIONAL CONFERENCE				
Seattle	21	13	0	.625
Portland	19	14	0	.563
Los Angeles	11	14	0	.462

WORLD ROUNDUP



Alberto Tomba shuns at an Italian photographer, Sunday.

Tomba Sparks Row

SKIING Alberto Tomba plunged into controversy after a men's giant slalom on Sunday when he clashed angrily with a photographer who sold nude photographs of him to a magazine last summer.

Photographers said Tomba, who had finished third in a giant slalom, threw a bottle of wine at a photographer, Aldo Martinuzzi, and then aimed a glass trophy at him during the podium ceremony. Page 16. (Reuters)

George Grabs Record

ATHLETICS The Australian Emma George, a former sprinter, broke her own women's world pole-vault record on Sunday.

She cleared 4.28 meters at an invitation meeting in Perth — three centimeters better than the mark she set in Melbourne last month.

George switched to the pole vault only a year ago after competing as a sprinter and long jumper.

The women's pole vault will not be contested at next year's Atlanta Olympics. (Reuters)

Lloyd Rejects Claim

CRICKET Clive Lloyd, the match referee, dismissed as a "storm in a teacup" allegations in British Sunday newspapers that the South African fast bowler Craig Matthews had tampered with the ball on the second day of the third test against England on Friday.

Lloyd said there was no conclusive evidence to be obtained from the television pictures which allegedly showed Matthews picking at the seam. Rain prevented play on Sunday. (Reuters)

Daehlie Dominates

SKIING Bjorn Daehlie continued his dominance of World Cup cross-country skiing Sunday, capturing a 15-kilometer combined event.

Only runner-up Jari Isometsa of Finland finished within a minute of Daehlie, who has won five of six races this season. (Reuters)

Professional Entertainers

RUGBY UNION England's rugby players signed professional one-year contracts with the Rugby Football Union worth £36,000 (\$55,000) each on Friday. On Saturday, they were booted and slow-handclapped for their lackluster play in a 27-9 victory over Western Samoa.

The unprecedented booing occurred in the second half when fly-half Paul Grayson, who kicked 17 points on his debut, was lining up his sixth penalty of the match with the score 15-9. There were loud cheers when he missed the target.

Puck leader Ben Clarke described the crowd as "ungracious" on Sunday, echoing the sentiments of coach Jack Rowell after the match.

England did manage two tries from Lawrence Dallaglio and Rory Underwood to end a run of three consecutive defeats. (Reuters)

Tyson, With 3d-Round Flurry, Knocks Out Mathis

By Jere Longman
New York Times Service

PHILADELPHIA — When Mike Tyson and Buster Mathis Jr. finally entered the ring Saturday night, the 18,000-seat Spectrum was half empty of spectators and fully barren of suspense. The most urgent question was whether Mathis would last as long as the national anthem, which had been screechingly extended to 2 minutes 10 seconds by a trio called Brownstone.

He did last longer, smothering Tyson determinedly but futilely before being knocked out at 2 minutes 32 seconds of the third round.

As Tyson appeared in traditional black trunks, there was little electricity in the building, unless you count the static electricity that keeps promoter Don King's hair aloft. A quick, decisive victory seemed inevitable, especially when Mathis removed his yellow robe to reveal a 224-pound (101-kilogram) marshmallow physique that complemented his cotton-candy punching.

The sculpted, 219-pound Tyson, a 2½ favorite, appeared overanxious and missed with a wild left hook as the fight began.

After an early slip, Mathis crowded Tyson against the ropes, trying to constrict his punches, and the former champion kept swiping at air, missing again with a left-right-left combination. Mathis expertly dodged the hook until Tyson connected late in the first round.

A thudding left hook by Tyson got the thin crowd — which had paid prices ranging to \$500 — roaring for a knockout late in the second round. A right uppercut by Tyson stung Mathis in the third, then Tyson followed with two more consecutive right uppercuts. The first straightened Mathis, the second dumped him on his back. Mathis climbed to his feet, but the referee, Frank Cappuccino, had counted the blubbery challenger out.

"I know I looked good; I needed the work," said Tyson, who earned \$10 million for his effort, while Mathis collected \$600,000. "He tried to lay on me, and the ref wouldn't keep him off."

Mathis, 25, said he felt that he could have continued fighting. "It was very close," he said. "I felt I was up. I felt very good. I was prepared. I saw the uppercut, but I slipped into it instead of stepping away."

Tyson, who is impatiently single-minded about regaining the undisputed heavyweight championship, is scheduled to fight next against WBC champion Frank Bruno.

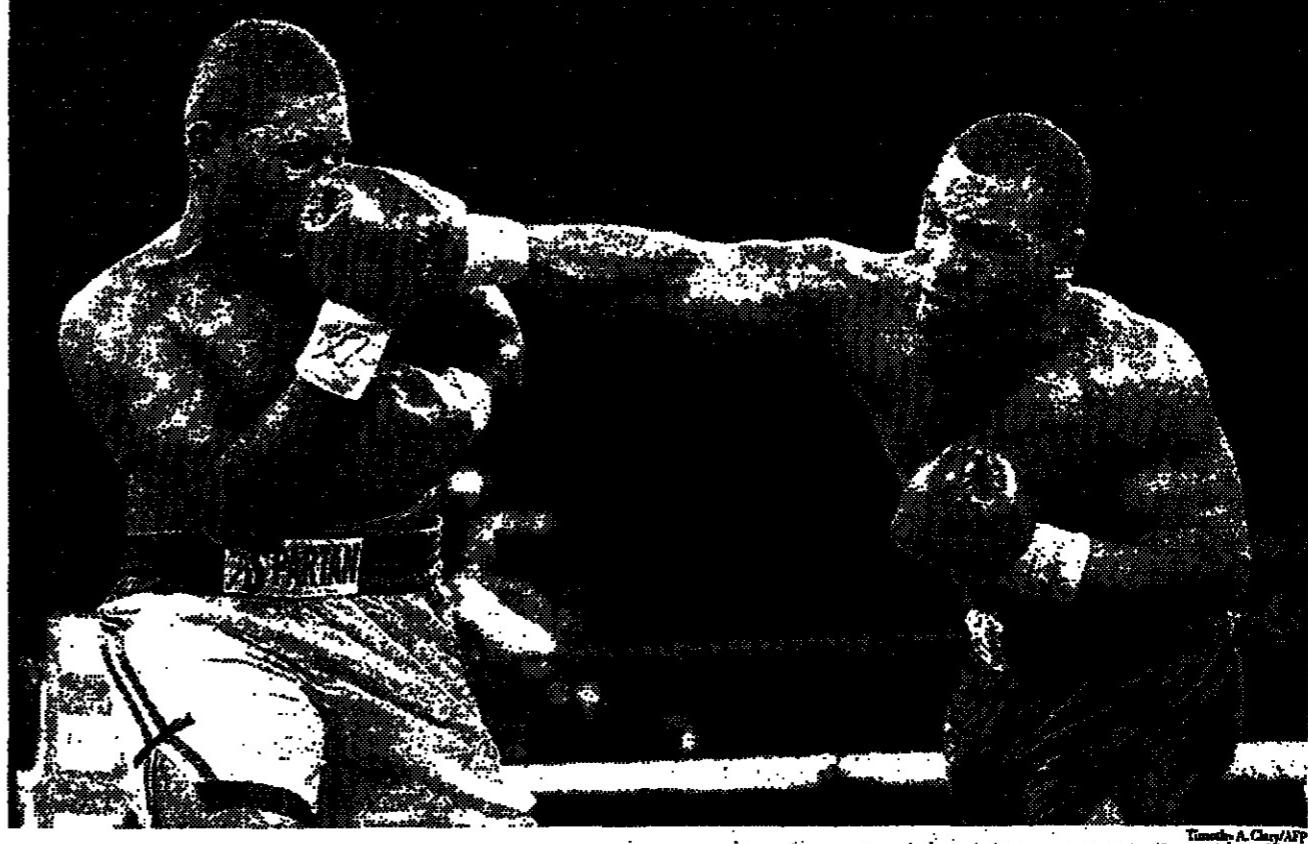
on March 16, then attempt to consolidate the title against WBA champion Bruce Seldon in June and IBF titlist Frans Botha of South Africa in August. It is no small convenience for Tyson that Bruno, Seldon and Botha are all promoted by Don King.

This was Tyson's second fight since leaving prison after serving three years for rape. Peter McNeely was dispatched in 89 seconds on Aug. 19. Tyson last went beyond the first round in a 12-round decision over Donovan "Razor" Ruddock on June 29, 1991, the final time he stepped between the ropes before he went behind bars.

Saturday night's fight was a marketing ploy, shown on free television on the Fox network, the bout was designed to pit Tyson against a weak puncher, to let the former champion display his malice in order that fans might be attracted to his future fights on pay-per-view television.

The bout had originally been scheduled for Nov. 4 in Las Vegas, but it was postponed after Tyson suffered a fractured right thumb. The next preferred site was Atlantic City, N.J., but the New Jersey casino commission has declined to sanction promoter Don King.

That left Philadelphia, whose Spectrum became available when a rock group's concert was canceled. However, given exorbitant ticket prices, the mere two-week buildup, the proximity of Christmas and the perceived weakness of Mathis as an opponent, ticket sales sagged like Tyson's sparring partners, four of whom were knocked out on consecutive days.



Mike Tyson lands a right hand to the jaw of Buster Mathis Jr. on Saturday. Tyson won with a third-round knockout. (Tommy A. Clay/AP)

A Heavyweight Joke: 'Champions' Awaiting Tyson

By Dave Anderson
New York Times Service

PHILADELPHIA — At a big heavyweight fight, it's usually the other way around: The champion is defending the title and the challengers are at ringside, woofing and wailing for an opportunity.

But as Mike Tyson awaited his assault on Buster Mathis Jr. at the Spectrum, he was the boxer in the ring while the three champions — Frank Bruno, Bruce Seldon and Frans Botha — were at ringside scouting him.

Bruno, Seldon and Botha are the titleholders in a heavyweight division divided into three parts.

Even if the best of each questionable talents were mixed into one boxer, Bruno-Seldon-Botha would not add up to anything more than an "opponent" for Muhammad Ali or Joe Frazier or the lethally young George Foreman, or maybe the now cuddly old George Foreman.

Bruno is the World Boxing Council champion, Seldon is the World Boxing Association champion and Botha is the International Boxing Federation champion. Like sitting ducks in a shooting gallery, all are lined up for Tyson. "Mike," the promoter, Don King blares whenever anyone might be listening, "will undispute the title."

But until Tyson proves himself, anyone who knows a jab from a hook realizes that Riddick Bowe is the best heavyweight around. Bowe even holds a championship belt issued by the World Boxing Organization, but that callow consortium is considered a rookie ruling body.

Foreman, who will be 47 when he goes against Michael Moorer at Madison Square Garden on Feb. 29 in what he promises to be his "last fight," is still considered the champion by the World Boxing Union, based in Leeds, England, another instant ruling body. But neither the Garden nor Home Box Office will try to palm Foreman-Moorer off as a "title" fight.

As bad as they are, Bruno, Seldon and Botha are considered the champions of boxing's tricomered world.

Bruno, 34, dethroned Oliver McCall in a 12-round decision in September at Wembley Stadium, having been knocked out in his three previous title bouts by Tim Witherspoon in 1986, Tyson in 1989 and by Lennox Lewis in 1993. Seldon emerged as the WBA champion when Foreman refused to grant Axel Schulz a return match following his controversial 12-round decision over the German earlier this year.

Botha, the pudgy South African known as the "White Buffalo," was awarded the IBF title a week ago in a unanimous 12-round decision over Schulz that creased a riot in Stuttgart, Germany.

And Saturday night, the three "champions" were at ringside to scout Mike Tyson as a future challenger. Typical of a heavyweight division that is more upside down than ever.

Italy and Germany Face 'Group of Death'

Host England Is Grouped with Its Oldest Enemy

By Ian Thomsen
International Herald Tribune

Group B will contain World Cup semi-finalist Bulgaria, Romania, France and Spain (with Germany the teams rated highest by UEFA).

Four years ago, Denmark was invited to replace Yugoslavia less than two weeks before the tournament in Sweden. This time, as defending champion, the Danes were seeded first in Group D with two untried, potential champions Croatia and Portugal along with Turkey, which will be making its European finals debut.

England, which has been cloistered in diggings doubt while others played qualifying games, is in the most parochial of the groups. Switzerland is managed by an Englishman, Roy Hodgson, and Dutch players have enjoyed a long relationship with the British leagues. It doesn't look like the kind of opposition to kick-start an England team that had to be content with one friendly draw after another.

Terry Venables, who has been besieged this year by tabloid scandals and lawsuits over his business dealings, said he will extend invitations this week to the best teams England can find for its last six friendlies before opening European Championship game June 8 at Wembley against Switzerland. He is hoping to play Germany, and there is talk of two matches in South Africa next spring together with a team holiday.

England's June 15 meeting with Scotland figures to be an interesting national diversion. The two teams haven't played each other since England won 2-0 at Glasgow in 1989, their annual fixture having collapsed

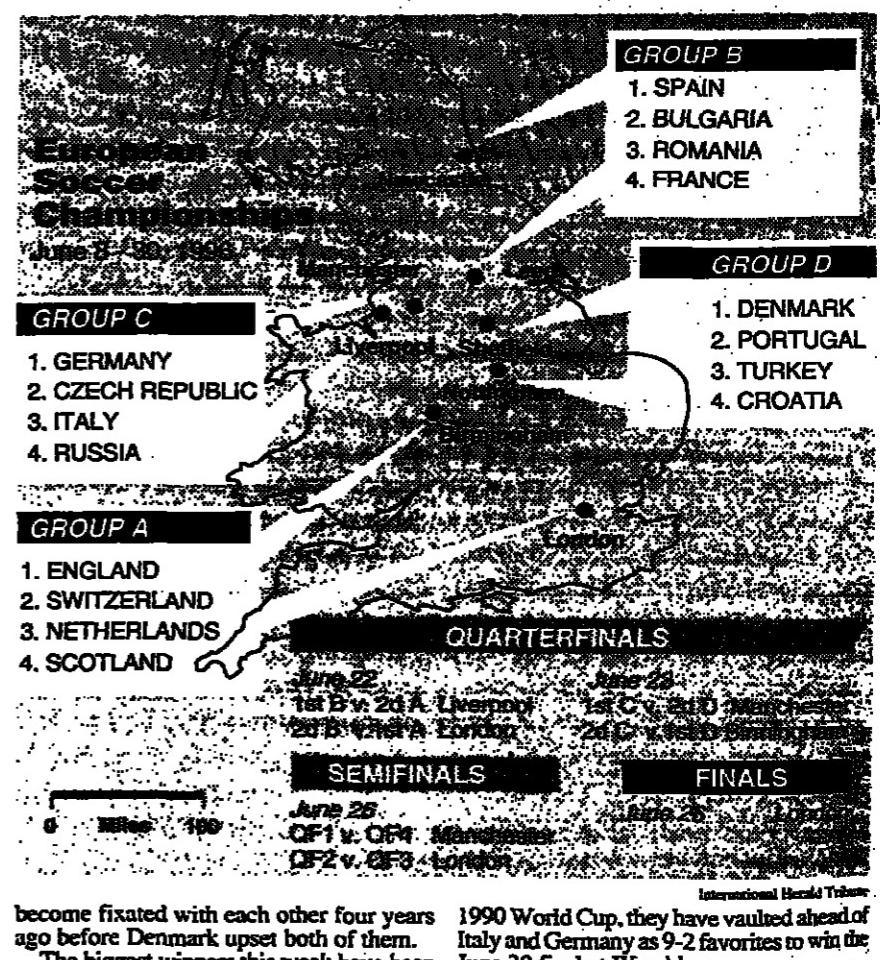
after Scottish fans tore out the goalposts at Wembley in 1988. Of 127 matches, England has won 43 and Scotland 40.

"I can virtually guarantee there will be no trouble from the Scottish fans — they were voted the best fans at the European Championship four years ago in Sweden," said Scotland manager Craig Brown. "I can't speak for the English supporters, but it will be pageantry, and if all goes well we may see the renewal of the annual fixture."

The bigger question will be the behavior of host fans at every venue. English hooligans seemed to be sending out a warning earlier this year when they ripped out benches, caused dozens of injuries and forced the stoppage of a "friendly" against Ireland in Dublin.

Among the eight stadiums in play next June will be two memorials to the English troubles of the 1980s — Hillsborough in Sheffield, where almost 100 fans were crushed to death in 1989, and Anfield in Liverpool, whose fans died at Hillsborough and were also involved in the 1985 tragedy at Hillsborough in playing in Europe. The stadiums are all-seaters and fences surrounding the pitch were removed after the Hillsborough disaster.

The larger audience will be fascinated by the June 19 showdown at Old Trafford in Manchester between Europe's leading powers, Italy and Germany. It will be their last opening-round game. For the record, neither manager complained about being grouped with the other. Both should recall that the Netherlands and Germany had

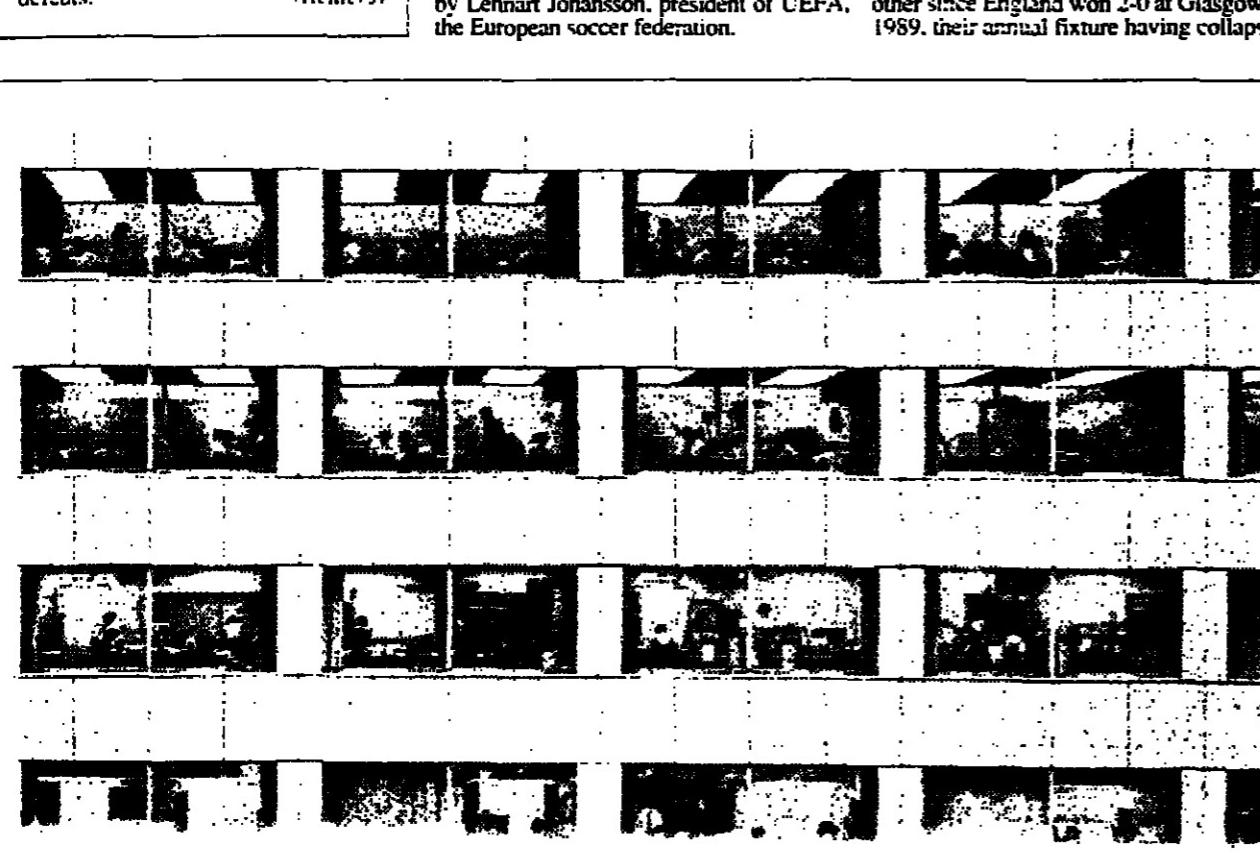


become fixated with each other four years ago before Denmark upset both of them.

The biggest winners this week have been the Dutch, who on Wednesday beat Ireland for the 16th and final spot next June. Now, after being drawn against England, as they were at this stage in the 1988 European Championships (which they won) and the

1990 World Cup, they have vaulted ahead of Italy and Germany as 9-2 favorites to win the June 30 final at Wembley.

England, in spite of the draw, dropped to fourth favorites at 7-1 alongside Spain, while the poor Czechs fell to the bottom's 80-1 underdogs. Which puts them in the same league as the Danes last time around.



	MIDDLE EAST	AMERICAS
Bahrain	00-800-000-1111	001-800-200-1111
Cyprus	000-900-000-1111	000-900-000-1111
Iceland	000-900-000-1111	000-900-000-1111
Ireland	1-800-000-000-1111	1-800-225-5333
Italy*	172-1011	1-23-811-0111
Lithuania	0-8111	0-8111
Luxembourg		